

Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Program FAQs

- What does the “evidence of non-suspensions/debarment of all parties” document/attachment entail?

This pertains to ability to hold a federal contract, and is not required for HHAP. The requirement has been removed from the ZoomGrants application.

- Since the Rental assistance and RRH is a different application from Landlord Incentives, what category from CES will people be pulled from to receive that benefit or is it available to anyone to use who is on CES?

Landlord incentives can be used for any housing placement from the CES list that is referred for housing location assistance that is referred to the selected provider.

- The NOFA states that the “Proposed Activity Narrative should not exceed 8 pages.” However, the character counts on the online application allow for responses that would far exceed that. Should we follow the page length stated in the NOFA?

Yes, please limit the proposed activity narrative to eight (8) pages.

- On the ZoomGrants application, question #36 (about leveraging resources to enhance effectiveness and longevity) only allows for 255 characters while most others are 15,000. Is this character count correct?

This character limit was an oversight and has been corrected to allow 15,000 characters.

- For the previous funding table, should we only include grants that come directly from state and federal agencies (Veterans Affairs, HUD, etc.) or should we also include state and federal funds that are channeled through local city and county agencies (e.g. HEAP, CDBG, ESG, etc.)

Please note previously received State or Federal funds (in the past five years), whether received directly or through a local entity such as a county or city governmental entity.

- If we are to include those channeled locally, should we include all of our organization’s funding statewide, or just contracts for Santa Barbara?

Please note funds received by your franchise/regional organization.

- Can a new construction project apply for a rental assistance commitment? What is the commitment term?

The Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program is a one-time block grant that provides local jurisdictions with funds to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address our immediate homelessness challenges. The grant term is 36 months with an anticipated start date of August 1, 2020 to July 30, 2023. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2025; however, given the amount of funding and the eligible uses determined through extensive community engagement, HCD anticipates funds will be fully utilized by June 30, 2023. The new construction project would need to be completed in summer 2020 and demonstrate where rental assistance would come from after HHAP funding ends. The budget submitted by the applicant should indicate the funding that will be used in each year.

- For the landlord incentives, can we ask for things like a \$500 bonus for each new landlord that rents to us and a \$500 bonus for say each tenant that stays housed with them for one year? Are bonuses allowed in this grant?
HHAP is a one-time block grant that provides local jurisdictions with funds to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address our immediate homelessness challenges. Spending must be informed by a best practice framework focused on moving homeless individuals and families into permanent housing and ensuring those individuals and families to maintain their permanent housing. The uses suggested appear to be allowed.
- May funds be used for programmatic staffing or are funds just intended for rental assistance payments?
Staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out program activities are not considered administrative for the purposes of this state funding. Administrative costs are not an eligible activity for applicants.
- Is the amount of time spent to prepare a quarterly report considered administrative?
County HCD has sought guidance from the state and will update with a response. It is unlikely the staffing to assimilate billing would be eligible under program activities. Staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out program activities are not considered administrative for the purposes of this state funding. Administrative costs are not an eligible activity for applicants.
- What is the deadline to confirm that funds have been contractually obligated?
The grant term is 36 months with an anticipated start date of August 1, 2020 to July 30, 2023. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2025; however, given the amount of funding and the eligible uses determined through extensive community engagement, HCD anticipates funds will be fully utilized by June 30, 2023. The budget submitted by the applicant should indicate the funding that will be used in each year. An application must be submitted for each eligible use for which an applicant is seeking funding. The CoC will monitor spending rates and will redistribute funds if a project is not on track to use all funds on eligible activities prior to the State expenditure deadline (June 30, 2025). Eligible costs will be invoiced to County HCD on at least on a quarterly basis for reimbursement. No matching funds are required.

Please send additional questions to LBoss@countyofsb.org