

2020 Spring NOFA Frequently Asked Questions

Published 5/29/2020

Define what the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool is - what can we use those funds for please?

The State of California describes flexible housing subsidy for local programs that establish or support the provision of rental subsidies in permanent housing to assist homeless individuals & families. In the State issued CESH NOFA Funds used for flexible housing subsidy may support rental assistance, bridge subsidies to property owners waiting for approval from another permanent rental subsidy source, vacancy payments, or project-based rent or operating reserves

Rental assistance provided from flexible housing subsidy funds shall not exceed 48 months for each assisted household, and rent payments shall not exceed two times the current HUD fair market rent for the local area, as determined pursuant to 24 CFR Part 888.

What documentation is required for the Evidence of non-suspension/debarment for all parties please?

<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>

Agencies should print a screen shot of the search results that state their "Active Exclusion" status.

This site will only provide a result for agencies that are direct grantees with the Federal government - e.g., CoC-funded agencies that are direct grantees of HUD. For agencies that only contract with HUD indirectly (i.e., through the County or another entity) we will accept a letter on letterhead certifying that the agency is not currently suspended or debarred from Federal contracting.

Can an agency use HEAP, CESH, and CARES COVID money as match?

HEAP and CESH can be used for match. ESG-CV (CARES) funds cannot be used for ESG match. However, other CARES or Corona Virus funds may be used.

What is the length of housing stability case management that you expect for RRH?

According to local CoC Written Standards:

Case Management must be provided as described in the Definition of Key Terms section of this document. Clients should meet with their case manager once per month for the duration of assistance plus an additional 6 months. The total length of case management should be no less than 9 months, with the goal of at least 1 year. Some organizations might have a screening, intake, assessment and eligibility determination process that precedes assignment to a case manager, while other organizations will have case managers performing the eligibility task. Regardless of the arrangement, the meeting with the case manager should be regarded not only as a program requirement, but also as an early opportunity to help a household improve its housing stability during and beyond the period of RRH assistance.

On the ESG budget, there is no HMIS budget column - so do we add it under RRH and or Street Outreach?

HMIS does not need to be a budget line item for ESG funds. However, applicants should keep in mind that HMIS participation and internal administration is a requirement of ESG funds and should be accounted for in agency budgets.

Do emergency shelter projects need to take referrals from CES?

Emergency Shelters are required to act as CES entry sites. As the current system is structured, Emergency Shelters are not required to take referrals from CES.

If RRH requires CES matches, how do outreach and RRH being combined?

Outreach activities identify persons experiencing homelessness and connect them with the coordinated entry system. Rapid Re-housing projects are required to take referrals from the coordinated entry system. Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing are two discrete activities.

What are the guidelines for budgeting for “operating reserves” under CESH?

Since this round of CESH is for a Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool, it is not necessary to budget for operating reserves.

Are Grantees able to use these funds to pay rents on units owned by the Grantees?

No.

Can the service funds and FTE's be used before units are secured? Or does the grantee have to have the units ready to go?

Yes, HCD anticipates there may be a “ramp up” period during which time the organization will need to employ an FTE to locate units.

Could organization apply as a partnership?

Yes, HUD allows for a recipient and a subrecipient.

Can the CoC funds be used for Supportive Services Only?

No.

Hhow many people currently qualify to receive assistance under FHSP in Santa Barbara County.

Anyone who has been evaluated and placed on the CES list would be eligible for these funds.

Under this grant, could eligible FHSP clients be referred to us by a partnering agency or would they come to us directly from CES?

FHSP clients must be referred from the CES list.

I read the FHSP description Home for Good has on their site and it states that intensive case management is provided by local community organizations. Who provides this?

The referring agency would be the agency who is providing the case management, there are many agencies county-wide who provide case management, there isn't any single agency who would be providing the case management.