



**Frequently Asked Questions for
Housing Now for Homeless Families RFP
And
Risk Mitigation Fund RFP**

Housing Now for Homeless Families FAQ

Q: Can these funds be used for deposits for apartments?

A: Yes

Q: For this funding does it have to be used in all the counties in the Ohio BoSCoC Homeless Planning Region or just be used in the county that has applied?

A: For the Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoSCoC) regions, it is possible for an applicant to serve less than an entire region, but full support from all counties in the region will be required and must be documented. The potential applicant should consult the Ohio BoSCoC Director for more direction.

Q: Can the family receive 4 months of assistance from this funding and then be transferred to a HCRP RRH program?

A: Yes, however, the family must have been income eligible for HCRP-RRH at the point of entry into the Housing Now for Homeless Families project, per the CoC's written standards.

Q: Can rent arrears be paid within the 4-month limit?

A: Yes, up to 4 months of rent arrears may be paid.

Q: Can these funds be applied to past due rent within public housing? Or is it just for private landlords?

A: Yes, just for the tenant portion of rent.

Q: Is there a limit on the number of months of utility assistance that can be paid for arrears?

A: Up to four months of utility arrears can be covered.

Q: Why are utilities identified as an eligible supportive service?

A: This was an error. Utilities assistance is direct financial assistance.

Q: Is there a limit on the amount of funding that may be used for supportive services?

A: No, there is no limit; however, an applicant needs to demonstrate the appropriateness of its request if requesting a significant proportion of the requested funds be used for supportive services.

Q: We are from a large urban area. Are we eligible to apply for these funds?

A: Yes. Funds are available for the entire state of Ohio.

Q: If we were to apply for these funds, could they be used solely for supportive services to clients that are already in the HCRP programs?

A: Yes, an agency could use funds for no more than four months of supportive services for a family.

Q: Can these funds be used at the same time, for the same clients that are currently in HCRP RRH programs?

A: Yes. However, an agency needs to be very careful about families meeting the eligibility for any program in which it is enrolled.

Q: What percentage of funds should be allocated to financial assistance and supportive services?

A: There is not specific requirement on this. Applicants are expected to submit reasonable requests that will meet the need of families in their community areas.

Q: Can a person who is housed in Recovery Housing be eligible for these funds to move out of the Recovery House?

A: People residing in recovery housing are generally not considered literally homeless. Therefore, they would most likely not be eligible for RRH assistance supported by this funding opportunity. The applicant would have to demonstrate how clients moving to other housing from recovery housing would be considered homeless. Similarly, a person residing in a recovery housing project may potentially be eligible for HP assistance, but only they are imminent at risk of homelessness.

Q: If a client is receiving case management services from another provider, are we, as the grantee, still required to provide the supportive services?

A: There is no requirement that a client receive supportive services. Supportive services are simply an eligible activity.

Q: Do you require a certificate of board consent for either RRH or Landlord mitigation, please?

A: There is no requirement of a board certificate.

Q: Can a participant receive both 4 months of rental assistance AND 4 months of utility assistance?

A: Yes

Q: Does TANF allow the funding to be used to satisfy a match requirement for another federal program?

A: Below is the answer we found when searching for an answer:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/q-a-use-of-funds?page=all>

Q40: Can federal TANF & MOE funds be used to match (1) the emergency solutions grants program as authorized under subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance

Act, as amended; (2) the continuum of care program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of such Act; (3) the rural housing stability assistance program as authorized under subtitle D of title IV of such Act; (4) the supportive housing program as formerly authorized under subtitle C of title IV of such Act (regulations at 24 CFR part 583); and (5) the shelter plus care program as formerly authorized under subtitle F of title IV of such Act (regulations at 24 CFR part 582)?

A40: *It is permissible for federal TANF funds to be used as a match for the above-listed programs, but it is not permissible for state funds to be used as a match to count toward a jurisdiction's MOE requirement.*

In general, federal funds from one program may not be used as matching funds for another federal program unless federal law expressly authorizes that the funds be allowable as a match. However, according to recent appropriations acts, a grantee under HUD's McKinney-Vento Act programs may use other federal funds as a match unless there is a specific statutory prohibition. The provision allowing for the use of funds from other federal agencies as a match for these McKinney-Vento Act programs first appeared in the FY 2009 HUD appropriations legislation and has been incorporated in each annual HUD appropriation since then (see, for example, Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-55, 125 Stat. 552, 685 (2011)).

There is no language in title IV-A of the Social Security Act which governs the TANF program that prevents Federal TANF funds from being used as matching funds for the above-mentioned HUD homelessness programs. These matching funds must be used consistent with the TANF requirements as well as the requirements for the homelessness programs they are being used in. Please note that the use of federal TANF funds as a match for these HUD homeless programs is permissible so long as the HUD appropriation language, which allows for this matching arrangement, is in force.

Non-federal funds used to meet the matching requirement for the HUD homelessness programs cannot count as MOE in the TANF Program. The TANF statute and regulations, section 409(a)(7)(B)(iv)(IV) of the Social Security Act and 45 CFR 263.6(c), expressly prohibit counting expenditures made as a condition of receiving federal funds in another program toward a jurisdiction's maintenance of effort requirement.

Q: Can a CoC lead subcontract with multiple nonprofit housing agencies in their CoC to reach an entire region?

A: This is possible and COHHIO will evaluate and weigh the administrative approach for this type of proposal.

Q: Does the application require that a board resolution approving the application for funds accompany it?

A: No

Q: What documentation is required to document imminent homelessness?

A: There is no specific documentation required by this funding source. However, COHHIO expects that agencies experienced in RRH and HP are familiar with determining and documenting homeless or at-risk of homelessness status.

Q: What timeframe are you allowing for agencies to get staff hired and ready to begin assisting participants?

A: There is no specific timeframe for onboarding and ramp up. Experienced agencies will have a leg up on this as they already have the infrastructure from doing other RRH and HP activities. COHHIO will evaluate the reasonableness of any timeline proposed in an application.

Q: Can this project be coordinated with other funded services such as vocational services and treatment services?

A: Yes. Coordination with other community supportive services is encouraged, where appropriate. However, proposals that demonstrate collaboration must also demonstrate best practices like housing first and providing low-barrier services.

Q: If a homeless family is eligible for HCRP RRH funding and HNHF, can the family be entered into the HCRP RRH program for the rent part and use HNHF for supportive services at the same time?

A: Yes. But applicants/grantees must ensure client eligibility for both programs whenever blending funding sources.

Q: If we already provide HP and RRH assistance in our community, can we apply for funds to do a combination of eviction prevention, shelter diversion & RRH?

A: Most likely yes, as long as the target population is eligible families who are currently homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, and the assistance provided aligns with the eligible activities listed.

Q: Is there a limit on how much funding can be used on Homelessness Prevention assistance vs Rapid Rehousing?

A: No

Pandemic Emergency Fund's Risk Mitigation Fund FAQ

Q: Would the risk mitigation funding period be for a 12-month period? 09/20 - 08/21?

A: Grant terms have yet to be determined and will be released at a later date, but we anticipate that grantees will have at least one year to expend any awarded funds.

Q: If we are the Regional Lead, how do we address question 13 - process used to obtain support for BOS Regional Lead?

A: If the agency seeking Risk Mitigation Funding is also the Ohio BoSCoC Homeless Planning Region's HCRP Lead agency, the applying agency should indicate that they have solicited and

received support from the Regional Executive Committee or other applicable regional group that includes providers beyond just the HCRP Lead Agency.

Q: Any thoughts about expanding eligible participation to landlords that house at-risk clients other than PSH and RRH participants? I ask because we facilitate a "Rent Smart" tenant education program and connect landlords to tenants with a Rent Smart certificate. We would like to have mitigation funds available to landlords who rent to "rent smart graduates"

A: COHHIO is choosing to keep these funds tightly restricted to RRH and scattered-site PSH clients.

Q: If an agency/nonprofit owns scattered site PSH- Are they eligible?

A: An agency that has been awarded Risk Mitigation Funding may not use the funds to assist units owned by the agency. However, the RMF grantee may assist other non-profit housing owners.

Q: Is the rent we are able to pay above the FMR capped at a certain number of months?

A: The maximum amount of RMF financial assistance that may be provided on behalf of a household is equal to the value of 2x Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a one-bedroom unit for the county in which funds are being utilized.

Q: Will there be admin dollars allowed on the mitigation fund?

A: Yes. Each applicant will need to determine what is reasonable. COHHIO will evaluate the request and make any final decisions.