Using Continuum of Care Program Funds for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

March 13, 2020

Continuum of Care (CoC) Program grant funds can be a useful resource to support communities' public health outbreak preparedness and response efforts.

The Need

It is essential for CoCs to be familiar with preparedness strategies and intervention measures and to work with key stakeholders to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases among people experiencing homelessness.

Core aspects of preparedness and response activity can be supported with CoC resources. The following chart has been developed to help CoC Collaborative Applicants, HMIS Leads and recipients understand the kinds of activity that are covered under specific component types. The following are eligible costs to support infectious disease preaparedness and response activities and the program component or line item that may be charged.

Grant Type	Activity Description
Planning Grant	Conducting local planning to ensure that homeless service providers are prepared to respond rapidly and effectively to emergencies and infectious disease outbreaks in their programs.
	Establishing partnerships with public health departments and local public works to ensure their services support safe and sanitary environments where homeless people present.
	Developing and delivering trainings related to preventing or responding to infectious disease; producing educational material for the CoC.
	Creating a disaster response plan for the CoC
Coordinated Entry System Grant(s)	Reviewing and modifying workflow, intake, assessment and service approaches that may impact participant program access to services and housing.
	Establishing new or different locations to access CoC services such as expanding or contracting certain approaches or customizing interventions for different subpopulations based on vulnerability to public health outbreaks.
HMIS Grant(s)	Customizing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) workflows and assessments to track exposure, diagnosis, and clearance in shelters and housing programs. Training on new processes are also supported.
	Establishing automated alerts to all staff at housing programs to see HMIS alerts for households and engage with them based on the guidance provided and coordinate care.
All Grant Types: Supportive Services	Helping households living in supportive housing acquire essential supplies (food, water, medications, transportation, information) during crises. Hiring more staff on a temporary or permanent basis to help deliver services may be required to support infectious disease preparedness. Recipients whose program budgets already include street outreach may engage and help people living in unsheltered locations acquire essential supplies (including food, water, medications, toiletries, transportation, information) during crises.
All Grant Types (except PH:RRH): Operations	Essential furnishings, maintenance, and equipment that support operating housing during crises. Hiring more staff on a temporary or permanent basis to help operating housing may be required to support infectious disease preparedness. (Keep in mind, operating funds cannot be used in the same structure as rental assistance funds.)

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

- CoC Recipients: review your spending history. Recipients often do not have fully expended grants. Your project may have unspent resources available.

- If your CoC grant budget needs an amendment to incorporate public health outbreak activities, please contact your HUD CPD field office immediately for additional assistance on how to expedite this process.

Related Resources

Infectious Disease Prevention and Response page on the HUD Exchange
Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs provides guidance for planning and responding to infectious diseases

Ask A Question

Submit your questions to the Ask A Question (AAQ) portal. In Step 2 of the question submission process, select "CoC: Continuum of Care Program" from the "My question is related to" drop down list and write "Health Preparedness and Response" in the subject line.