



**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity**

**NOTICE: Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP)
COVID-19 Funds**

This Notice contains important details regarding eligibility and application procedures for COVID-19 funds provided under the CARES Act of 2020. The CARES Act provides \$1.5 million in COVID-19 related funding to HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; these funds will be provided as Partnership funds and Special Enforcement Effort funds under the authority set forth at 24 C.F.R. § 115.304(d) and 24 C.F.R. § 115.305.

I. Purpose and Eligible Uses

The purpose of Partnership funds is for a FHAP agency to utilize the services of individuals and/or public, private, for-profit, or not-for-profit organizations that have expertise needed to effectively carry out the provisions of the agency's fair housing law. The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and disability. Special Enforcement Effort (SEE) funds may be provided to a FHAP agency to enhance enforcement activities of the agency's fair housing law.

Pursuant to the terms of the CARES Act, activities conducted using funds provided under this Notice must "address fair housing issues relating to coronavirus." A FHAP may propose any activity that complies with this statutory purpose and the regulatory criteria at §§ 24 C.F.R. 115.304(d), 305. In keeping with the text of the legislation, as well as the relevant regulatory provisions, HUD offers the following examples of fundable activities. This is not an exhaustive list:

- Partnering with grassroots, faith-based or other community-based organizations to conduct COVID-19 related education and outreach to people of different backgrounds.
- Procurement and/or development of up-to-date or advanced technology to do such related education and outreach using on-line platforms, social media, etc.
- Contracting with qualified organizations to conduct fair housing testing in appropriate cases.
- Hiring temporary staff specifically to address any increase in fair housing complaints.
- Hiring temporary staff to address a general backlog of fair housing complaints due to the interruption of normal work processes caused by COVID-19.
- Establishment of hotlines or websites for fair housing issues.

II. Agency Eligibility, Maximum Award, Deadline

Agency Eligibility: All State and local agencies that are currently participating in the Fair Housing Assistance Program are eligible to receive funds under this Notice, **except** an agency that is currently on a Performance Improvement Plan or that has been suspended during the federal fiscal year in which funds are sought. Exceptions to the disqualifying criteria may be made at HUD's sole discretion on a case-by-case basis for Partnership funds, but not for SEE funds.

Maximum Award: There is no limit on the dollar amount of an award under this Notice. HUD expects that amounts requested will range from \$15,000 - \$75,000, but proposals below and above that amount will be considered. All proposals will be reviewed for, among other things, reasonableness of the amount of funding sought. Reasonableness may include an assessment of the amount sought in light of the amount of annual funding provided by HUD to the agency.

Deadline: Under the terms of the CARES Act, these funds shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2021. Due to the nature of the COVID-19 national emergency and owing to the uncertainty with respect to duration of the outbreak, HUD will accept proposals for the use of the funds provided under this Notice on a rolling basis. Applications will be accepted until the funds provided under the CARES Act have been exhausted.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any and all funds provided under this Notice must be obligated on or before September 30, 2021.

III. Application Procedure

HUD will provide \$1.5 million in COVID-19 related funds under this Notice. The Department invites interested FHAP agencies to submit proposals for their use, consistent with Sections I and II of this Notice.

FHAP agencies wishing to apply for an award of funds under this Notice should send a detailed proposal signed by the agency's principal officer to the FHAP Division in headquarters. The request must include the following information:

- A description of the proposed activities and the connection to COVID-19.
- Timetable for conducting proposed activities.
- Identification of the entity (or entities) with whom the agency will partner (if applicable).
- Expected impact (*i.e.*, audience reached and/or how the activity will benefit the agency's fair housing mission).
- Amount Requested. While the agency should identify whether it is seeking Partnership or SEE funds, HUD will determine the best source of funding, considering funds availability and proposed activity(ies).

Requests should be sent by electronic mail to the FHAP Director in Headquarters, at Joseph.A.Pelletier@hud.gov, with a copy to the agency's respective FHEO Region Director.

Once received, the FHAP Division will consult with the respective FHEO Region Director and FHAP GTR and determine whether the proposal complies with the terms of this Notice and whether the amount sought is reasonable for the activities proposed. Awards will be made in HUD's sole discretion.

IV. Distribution and Control of Funds

All funds awarded under this Notice will be distributed through the established FHAP payment process. Award funds will be obligated for successful applications as soon as practicable after approval of the application.

Use and control of these funds will comply with the FHAP governing regulations at 24 C.F.R. part 115 and the *Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards* at 2 C.F.R. part 200.