**Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF)**

**FY 2023 Request for Proposal**

**Responses to Questions Submitted**

**Question:** The East Bay Community Action Program serves the Newport/East Bay area. Could we implement diversion/prevention in our service area using CES and accept state-wide referrals?

**Answer:** Absolutely, yes. Any organization that implements a diversion/prevention program can accept state-wide referrals from the RI Coordinated Entry Line.

**Question:** What documentation is needed for construction/renovation projects? Do we need to have estimates in hand before submitting an application?

**Answer:** While providers do not need to have firm estimates in hand before submitting an application for construction/renovation projects, they should attempt to provide a reasonable budget. Providers should also be prepared to describe their project in as mush detail as possible and provide a projected timeline for completion of the project.

**Question:** Given the limited turnaround time of 2/25/22, would it be possible to have an extension on this current RFP for CHF Applications for FY 23.

**Answer:** Unfortunately, no. Due to the contracting requirements of various funding sources, the CHF does not have the ability to extend this year’s RFP deadline. As explained in the February 4th workshop, some contracts need to be signed by March 31st, creating a very tight timeline for review and approval of funded projects.

**Question:** What types of projects constitute renovation of an emergency shelter?

**Answer:** Any project that increases the shelter’s capacity, improves health, safety, energy efficiency and functionality of a shelter would constitute an appropriate renovation project.

**Question:** Are we permitted to submit renovation projects as a part of our regular CHF application for shelter operations?

**Answer:** Yes, you can submit a shelter renovation project as a part of your regular CHF application for shelter operations, provided that you submit a separate budget and timeline for the construction/renovation project. You must answer questions 12 and 13 on the CHF application form for your construction/renovation project to be seriously considered.

**Question:** Last year we submitted separate grant applications for our systems grants for constituent programs, Housing Navigation, Legal Clinics, Street Outreach Coordination, SOAR Services and Youth Homelessness Systems Building.

**Answer:** In this years RFP, the CHF has listed Housing Navigators as a standalone program for which it would like to see a separate application (one that specifically details specific services/tasks for the selected provider to provide statewide). In terms of the other projects (SOAR, Street Outreach Coordination, Youth Homelessness Systems Building and Legal Clinics), the CHF review committee determined that these projects all worked well together as one coordinated project. Thus, one application may be submitted for these projects.

**Question:** What percentage of match funding is considered appropriate? What are the allowable sources of match funds?

**Answer:** CHF subrecipients should strive for “dollar for dollar” matching funds (except COVID requested funds-match is not required with COVID specific funding). The matching funds must be cash expended for allowable CHF costs. Matching funds may be obtained from any source, including any federal, as well as state, local and private sources (except: McKinney Vento/Hearth federal dollars, HOME TBRA, SNAP benefits, Housing Choice Vouchers and tenants’ portion of rent). The matching funds must be expended during the contract period. Matching funds must also not have been and will not be used to match any other Federal program’s funds. Agencies that cannot meet the match requirements should request a waiver by answering question 22c. Waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

**Question:**  We have an innovative, demonstrated model to expand emergency housing for youth.  Could we obtain a waiver on match funding to provide incentives for host homes?

**Response:** Please answer question 22c.

**Question:** Who is on the review panel and what organizations/agencies do they represent?

**Answer:** The Review Committee consists of state and local employees representing various funding sources and a subcommittee of the Continuum of Care (means the group composed of representatives of relevant organizations, which generally includes nonprofit homeless providers; victim service providers; faith-based organizations; governments; businesses; advocates; public housing agencies; school districts; social service providers; mental health agencies; hospitals; universities; affordable housing developers; law enforcement; organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and formerly homeless persons that are organized to plan for and provide, as necessary, a system of outreach, engagement, and assessment; emergency shelter; rapid re-housing; transitional housing; permanent housing; and prevention strategies to address the various needs of homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness for a specific geographic area).

**Question:** Our organization identified two potential opportunities to expand the affordable housing stock in RI. Given the short period of solicitation, is there funding available to complete a feasibility study along with implementation?

**Answer:** You may submit a proposal if you wish, but generally the CHF does not fund feasibility studies.

**Question:** What do you mean by utilization rate in question 19?

**Answer:** The CHF is specifically asking what percentage of shelter beds will be utilized on a nightly basis.

**Question:** What is question 4 asking?

**Answer:** The total number of unduplicated individuals to be served. If your project is a shelter project-how many people will be sheltered. If your project is a systems project that is providing services to agencies serving the homeless community-how many staff persons will be served.