

1. Will the July 31, 2009 applications be for a three year funding period or otherwise?

Response: The applications and subsequent contracts will be for a three year period. We anticipate contracts will be effective September 30, 2009.

2. Who will be responsible for the insurance needed for a truck rental (move) and how will responsibility be demonstrated?

Response: An eligible cost of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program is moving cost assistance. This assistance includes the cost of truck rental or hiring a moving company. Insurance can be purchased with the truck rental. This would be an eligible cost. The insurance coverage for a moving company should be a cost included in the total cost of this activity. This would also be an eligible cost.

3. What are “shallow subsidies”?

Response: A shallow subsidy is a payment to a landlord of a portion of a household's rent obligation. Each grantee can determine the amount of short or medium term rental assistance. A grantee can also determine if a household is eligible for a 100% subsidy of rent, a portion “shallow subsidy”, or a graduated amount. The best example is adjusting a rent subsidy if a household was unemployed; then reemployed but still required assistance. In this case the amount of the rental subsidy could change from 100% rental subsidy to a “shallow subsidy” or a portion of the rent.

4. Legal services related to mortgages are not eligible. This means all other legal services are eligible for funding?.

Response: Legal services related to mortgages are not eligible. This is correct. Legal services that are eligible are services that help someone stay in their homes. This would include legal advice and representation in administrative or court proceedings related to tenant/landlord matters or housing issues.

5. Please compare and contrast: Credit repair – resolving credit issues (assistance available) and ineligible activities “consumer credit”.?

Response: These funds may be used to help eligible households with credit repair, meaning household budget analysis and recommended steps to improve bad or marginal credit; they can also be used to access money management assistance or courses, and accessing a current credit report. The ineligible activity of subsidizing consumer credit of a household, such as paying off a portion of someone credit card is ineligible.

6. Please define “recent traumatic life event”?

Response: A recent traumatic life event is one of several At-Risk factor used by (sub)grantees in developing HPRP programs. A recent traumatic event would be the death of a spouse or other family member, or a recent health crisis that prevented the household from meeting its financial obligations.

7. Will the Department allow agencies to have an initial pool of funds (perhaps equal to 1/12 of the entire grant) to begin services?

Response Agencies providing rental assistance are required to make timely rent payments directly to landlords in accordance with the lease. The Department will allow a nominal advance to for those expenses that require a timely payment such as rent and utility payments.

8. Discharge from an institutional stay of more than 180 days in the past two weeks. Could a definition of “institution” be – the person was housed by order of a doctor, law enforcement persons, or Judge? Or is their another definition of an “institutional stay”.

Response: The HUD guidance defines “intuition” as prison, mental health hospital, or medical hospital. Until HUD further defines institution we use this definition.

9. Will a family housed in Section 8 or low income housing or attempting to move into Section 8 or low income housing be eligible for eviction prevention or deposit/first months rent through the Recovery Act monies?

Response: Security and utility deposits can be paid with HPRP funding provided it is not used for expenditures that may be eligible with another federal, state, or local housing program. If funding exists for security deposits and first months rent from local sources, then these sources should be exhausted prior to seeking funding from the HPRP program. If a household is facing eviction from Section 8 housing HPRP mediation services should be utilized. However, the prevailing decision to access HPRP resources should depend on whether the household meets the HPRP At-Risk Assessment standards for assistance.

10. How will duplicate service provision to a household be afforded or decreased?

Response: Applicants for HPRP funding will be required to demonstrate how they will account for a clients services and avoid duplicating subsidized services.