

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Competitive Grant: Housing Interventions (HINT) to End the HIV Epidemic Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

**FR-6700-N-11**

**Pre-Application Webcast Questions and Answers**

*The questions contained in this document were submitted during the [Pre-Application Webcast](#) for the FY2023 HOPWA HINT NOFO on October 18, 2023. Additional questions from applicants can be submitted by email to [HOPWA@hud.gov](mailto:HOPWA@hud.gov). For the full text of the FY2023 HOPWA HINT NOFO visit Grants.gov at: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350225>*

**General**

1. The NOFO says "low-barrier model using Housing First." Does that mean participants must be placed immediately into permanent supportive housing or can participants enter interim housing if they receive an individual service plan that eventually leads to permanent supportive housing?

Proposed projects must incorporate Housing First principles that ensure additional barriers or conditions are not imposed on clients in order to be placed into permanent supportive housing. Projects are not required to target individuals experiencing homelessness, but are expected to incorporate the core elements of Housing First as defined in the U.S.

Interagency Council on Homelessness Housing First Checklist accessible here:

[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Housing\\_First\\_Checklist\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Housing_First_Checklist_FINAL.pdf)

2. Why would a program apply for TBRA type assistance if it is a term-limited grant?

As funding under this NOFO will be provided on a one-time only basis and will not be eligible for renewal, grant recipients must ensure the full integration of their clients into local systems of care including any continuing housing assistance and services, if needed. The Resource Identification budget line item can be used to identify and coordinate local resources and develop new or strengthen existing partnerships with Public Housing Agencies and other local housing programs and providers to ensure the successful transition of assisted clients to permanent housing by the end of the grant operating period.

3. Will HUD consider applications that identify a subpopulation focus within the eligible population (e.g. older adults living with HIV/AIDS) provided that such subpopulation designations do not violate fair housing law?

Rating Factor 2.2 asks applicants to describe the need for housing and services for low-income people with HIV in the service area and provide demographic and characteristic information about subpopulations that are currently underserved with local housing and

services. Applicants should clearly define the demographics and shared characteristics of any identified target subpopulation that the proposed project will affirmatively market and tailor housing and services to in order to advance equity and remove barriers to assistance. Demographics and shared characteristics may include but are not limited to race, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), age (e.g. youth or aged 50+), history of incarceration, intimate partner or domestic violence victimization, chronic homelessness, injection drug use, substance use, and co-occurring or multiply diagnosed medical conditions. The information provided in response to this criterion should be consistent with applicant submissions for the Advancing Racial Equity narrative and the Affirmative Marketing narrative.

4. Can HINT funds be used to complement existing HOPWA-funded activities?

While HOPWA HINT funding could complement existing HOPWA-funded activities, the intent is not to add supplemental funding to current HOPWA projects. The HOPWA HINT NOFO announces the availability of funding to provide communities an opportunity to create and implement new projects that align with initiatives aimed at ending the HIV epidemic, and elevate housing as an effective structural intervention in ending the epidemic. HUD is seeking projects with exemplary and innovative qualities, including incorporation of Housing First principles, community-level coordination, data collection with emphasis on stable housing and positive health outcomes, the use of cultural humility in providing housing and services, and a systemic approach to advance equity in underserved communities that can serve as a national place-based model.

5. Of the six required project objectives, #3 is to improve the use of available community resources and coordination. Does this mean (or include) working with local real estate companies/landlords to identify new housing stock? Does this mean there is a requirement to work with local housing departments?

Yes, this could include working with or partnering with real estate companies, landlords, and local housing departments. All resources and potential partners within the community should be considered. For example, past HOPWA competitive grants have created and fostered partnerships with Housing Developers, Legal Aid organizations, LGBTQI+ organizations, Police Departments, local medical providers or FQHCs, Ryan White Providers, domestic violence providers, mental health providers, and many others in their communities. Additionally, applicants must submit a Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (form HUD-2991) signed by the applicable state or local government official for submitting the appropriate plan for the areas in which activities are targeted. This certification means the proposed activities in the application are consistent with the jurisdiction's strategic plan, and the location of the proposed activities is consistent with the geographic areas specified in the Consolidated Plan.

6. How would new grantees collaborate with HUD to identify the individualized TA provider?

Individualized technical assistance (TA) to ensure successful startup and implementation of the awarded project can begin once the awarded applicant signs a grant agreement with HUD. After the grant agreement is signed, HUD will connect a TA provider with the grantee as needed.

7. Are the total award amounts listed in the NOFO pages 14 and 15 of 59 (\$600K and \$2.5M per project period) annual per awardee amounts OR the total 3 year award amount?

The minimum (\$600,000) and maximum (\$2,500,000) award amounts are for a 36-month project period and budget period.

### **NOFO Requirements**

8. The requirements in the NOFO for letters of commitment specifies providing "the date of the commitment letter or other document". What does this date refer to?

The date of the commitment letter refers to the date that the commitment is made or the letter is signed.

9. Will the HOPWA APR/CAPER reporting requirement for this funding opportunity fold into our larger HOPWA APR/CAPER or will it be a separate submission specifically for this funding?

Grants awarded under the HOPWA HINT NOFO are required to submit a separate HOPWA Consolidated APR/CAPER specific to their HOPWA HINT grant award.

10. There is a double-space formatting requirement vs total page limit. Can subheadings/paragraphs from the narratives be removed? ... and just keep the item/subitem number?

The text from the NOFO should not be included in the narrative responses. Applicants can simply list the Rating Factor and criterion that is being responded to. Applicants should be responsive to each criterion for full points as reviewers will not consider information provided in other criteria responses when awarding points unless the criterion makes the reference. Narrative responses outside the page limits for each rating factor will not be reviewed.

## **Eligibility**

11. May a non-profit organization apply independently and also be included as a project sponsor in an application submitted by an unit of local government?

Yes. However, if there is more than one applicant with planned activities in the same exact service area, the applicant with the highest score for that service area will receive the award and the lower scored application will only be considered if funding remains after all other eligible applications have been selected. Applicants may coordinate on a regional level with portions of their service areas overlapping; this would not be considered the same exact service area.

12. We are primarily a housing organization, but work with HIV organizations for some health clinic work. Would programs aimed at HIV prevention through housing support also be considered?

Applicants must meet eligibility requirements in Section III.A to be considered for funding. Additionally, funding under this NOFO must be used to assist individuals or families who meet the eligibility criteria that applies to that assistance under 24 CFR 574 meaning they must have a documented diagnosis of HIV or AIDS, and qualify as low-income.

## **Eligible Activities and Costs**

13. Can the HINT funding be used to pay for storage of a client's possessions in order to help them obtain housing?

Other housing activities not already authorized at 24 CFR 574.300(b) may be proposed but are subject to HUD's approval. See Section III.F.4.a.vii of the NOFO for additional information.

14. Can we use HINT funds to purchase a vehicle to help eligible clients move their possessions?

Other housing activities not already authorized at 24 CFR 574.300(b) may be proposed but are subject to HUD's approval. See Section III.F.4.a.vii of the NOFO for additional information.

15. Is an external evaluator to analyze data an allowable expenses? If so, which budget category can we list it under?

Funding may be used for Resource Identification to conduct preliminary research and make expenditures necessary to determine the feasibility of specific housing-related initiatives. The Resource Identification budget line item can be used to analyze the client-level data collected and research causes preventing clients from achieving stable housing and viral suppression. See Section F.4.c.ii of the NOFO for additional information.

16. Is the Capacity Building line item only an option for grantees that have not previously received HOPWA funding?

Use of the capacity building budget line item is not limited to new HOPWA grantees. Funding may be used for capacity building to participate in HUD-funded TA aimed at building administrative and programmatic capacity that will contribute to meeting performance benchmarks for the proposed project and furthering the purposes of the HOPWA program. HUD intends to support awarded applicants with limited HOPWA or HUD grant experience through individualized technical assistance (TA) to ensure successful startup and implementation of the awarded project.

17. We used Leasing in a special way during COVID to pay for hotels and motels (ad hoc, not through an agreed set-aside "lease" with hotels). Would this be allowed for this grant?

Other housing activities not already authorized at 24 CFR 574.300(b) may be proposed but are subject to HUD's approval. See Section III.F.4.a.vii of the NOFO for additional information.

18. Does this grant pay for staff salaries, for example a case manager?

Yes. Activity/Service delivery costs such as salary and overhead costs directly relating to carrying out a particular eligible activity in a budget line item should be represented in the funding amount requested for that particular budget line item. See Section III.F.4 of the NOFO for additional information.

19. Of the "eligibility activities, (Admin Costs) is limited to 3% (grantees) and 7% (project sponsors). How does this affect the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. Can you please explain this further?

Normal indirect cost rules under 2 CFR part 200, subpart E apply. If you intend to charge indirect costs to your award, your application must clearly state the rate and distribution base you intend to use. Indirect cost can be billed to all budget line items, not just Admin costs. If you have a Federally negotiated indirect cost rate, your application must also include a letter or other documentation from the cognizant agency showing the approved rate. Successful applicants whose rate changes after the application deadline must submit the new rate and documentation to assure the award agreement incorporates the applicable rate.

20. Under the HINT NOFO, would Rapid Rehousing (RRH) be an eligible housing assistance activity for consideration?

Other housing activities not already authorized at 24 CFR 574.300(b) may be proposed but are subject to HUD's approval. See Section III.F.4.a.vii of the NOFO for additional information.

### **Scoring**

21. Is there a minimum point total for Rating Factors 2 or 3?

Rating Factors 2, 3, and 5 do not have minimum point total requirements. An application must receive a minimum of 70 points across all Rating Factors to be eligible for funding.

22. So leveraging resources is a semi-match aspect associated with the award? Is there a dollar amount associated or a percentage of the initial award that would be deemed sufficient?

Applicants must receive a minimum of 2 points in Rating Factor 4, Leveraging Resources to be eligible for funding. The percentage of leveraging is determined by comparing the determined amount of leveraged resources to the total grant amount requested by the applicant under this NOFO. To score the minimum of 2 points for leveraging resources, applicants must show 1% to 49.9% of leveraged resources as part of the application.