



Office of Special Needs COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

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Office of Special Needs General CARES Act and COVID-19 Questions

Question 1: When will CARES Act supplemental funds be distributed?

A.: The CARES Act allocated \$3.96 billion for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and \$40 million for technical assistance providers with experience in providing health care services to homeless populations in order to provide an immediate increase in capacity building and technical assistance available to ESG program recipients. These funds will be awarded quickly by using existing grant formulas; they will also be accompanied by new guidance that cuts red tape so grantees can quickly help their communities. HOPWA issued \$63.7 million for competitive and formula grants and \$1.3 million for technical assistance. On April 2, 2020, \$1 billion was allocated for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). The remaining \$2.96 billion of ESG funds were awarded on June 9, 2020. Upon submission of the grantee's action and implementation plans, grant agreements will be executed if the funding is available in LOCCS.

Question 2: How does HUD plan to notify communities of their CARES Act funding?

A.: CPD has sent grant notification letters to grantees, which are also available on HUD.gov.

Question 3: Will HUD update guidance for communities on how can deploy CARES Act funds?

A.: Yes, current guidance is available at https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/covid-19.

Question 4: What waivers are available due to COVID-19?

A.: HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) issued general waivers relating to COVID-19 on March 31, 2020, and May 22, 2020.

See program-by-program descriptions here:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Flexibilities_Waivers_Guidance_for_CARE_Act_CPD_Funds_062320.pdf

March 31, 2020 Waiver: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Availability-of-Waivers-of-CPD-Grant-Program-and-Consolidated-Plan-Requirements-to-Prevent-the-Spread-of-COVID-19-and-Mitigate-Economic-Impacts-Caused-by-COVID-19.pdf>

May 22, 2020 Waiver:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Additional_Waivers_for_CPD_Grant_Programs_to_Prevent_COVID-19_Spread_and_Mitigate_COVID-19_Economic_Impacts.pdf

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) CARES Act and COVID-19 Questions

Question 1: I am a round 1 Community and will be unable to expend all of my funds prior to grant expiration because of the impact of COVID-19. Can I extend my grant?

A.: Yes, round 1 communities (communities selected under the 2016 NOFA) may request to extend your YHDP grant if you are unable to expend all of your funds because of COVID-19. HUD will review your grant performance before making a decision on your request. Upon approval, HUD and the recipient will execute an amendment to the grant agreement extending the term. Please keep in mind that this will impact when the project will be eligible to apply for renewal in the Continuum of Care competition.

Question 2: I am a round 3 YHDP community. Can I request an extension to the due date for the YHDP Coordinated Community Plan (CCP)?

A.: No, you may not request an extension. A Notice regarding extending 2018 YHDP NOFA deadlines will be forthcoming, and it will be posted at <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus> when it is available.

Question 3: I am a round 3 YHDP community and am concerned with our community's ability to conduct a local competition during the COVID-19 crisis. Can my community receive an extension to the July 1, 2020 due date for project applications?

A.: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, signed by the President on March 27, 2020 provides that funds made available under the FY2018 YHDP will remain available until September 30, 2021. As such, SNAPS is extending the deadline for project submission to July 1, 2021.

Recipients should follow <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus> for publication of a pending notice implementing this provision and effectuating revisions to 2018 YHDP NOFA deadlines.

Question 4: I am a Round 3 community and am unable to get the required signatures for the CCP- do I have options?

A.: SNAPS will accept digital signatures from the required stakeholders.

Question 5: I have identified supportive services that would be helpful to help my community address the COVID-19 crisis, but I did not list the activities in my YHDP application. Am I able to provide these services?

A.: If the project already has a Supportive Services budget line item and the service is an eligible supportive service listed in 24 CFR 578.53 that was not included in the project description in the project application, then the recipient must fully document in its records the changes in the use of the grant funds, as required by 24 CFR 578.105(c). Some potentially helpful activities for addressing the COVID-19 are listed in the [Using CoC Program Funds for Infectious Disease](#) resource. If the project does not already have a Supportive Service budget line item, the recipient may shift up to 10% of a budget line item without needing a written grant agreement amendment. If recipients would like to shift more than 10% of a budget line item or would like to establish a new budget line item within an existing project that involves shifting more than 10% of a budget line item, please contact your YHDP desk officer to request an amendment to your grant agreement (YHDP Round 1 communities, please contact your Field Office representative).

Question 6: Members of the Youth Action Board in my community are unable to meet/communicate because of challenges with internet connectivity (e.g. office buildings are closed, no internet in home, etc.) and cellular phone access. Can I use funds from my YHDP planning grant for internet hotspots or cellular phones to facilitate these meetings?

A.: Yes, under certain conditions recipients may loan Youth Action Board members an internet hotspot or cellular phone in order for the youth to continue work through the Youth Action Board. The internet hot spot or cellular phone must be owned by the recipient/subrecipient and the wireless service plan must be the recipient/subrecipient's, but the hotspot or phone may be loaned to members of the YAB as needed to enable participation in eligible planning activities outlined at 24 CFR 578.39. The hotspot or phone and corresponding services may be loaned to the YAM member while stay-at-home or social distancing orders are in effect in the community in which the program participant resides, and must be returned to the recipient/subrecipient when those orders are lifted.

Question 7: Our organization can no longer directly provide meals or groceries to youth, as allowed by 24 CFR 578.53(e)(7). Can I provide gift cards to participants in YHDP projects to purchase food?

A.: Recipients may provide gift cards to participants in YHDP projects to purchase food; however, the recipient must retain documentation of the actual cost of food purchased. For instance, if a recipient provides a program participant with a \$10 gift card for groceries and the program participant provides a receipt for \$7 worth of food, the recipient can only seek reimbursement for \$7 as documented by the receipt provided. Recipients can request that participants send an electronic copy of the receipt (picture or scanned) in order to maintain social distancing.