

FY2023 Emergency Safety and Security Webinar
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Application Due Date: June 28, 2023, by 5:00pm Eastern Daylight Time

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How to Apply

1. Can you confirm that the period we are looking at is Oct 1, 2022, to present?

Yes, the current period is October 1, 2022- September 30, 2023. All safety and security emergencies must have occurred or have been determined within the Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 —September 30) in which the funds were appropriated.

2. In the notice, it states that the local crime data should be for the current fiscal year. To clarify, does that mean any crime data must be about crime on the PHA property between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023?

Yes, October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. You must demonstrate in a detailed narrative how crime in the close vicinity of the development(s) poses an increased threat to the health and safety of PH residents in the current FY.

Crime data should be from the following sources per PIH Notice 2023-10:

- a. Local law enforcement reports;*
- b. Uniform Crime Reports;*

- c. PHA police data;
 - d. PHA incident reports;
 - e. Newspaper articles (about crime on PHA property);
 - f. Internet crime data such as Neighborhood List Serves that lists types and numbers of offenses; and
- PHAs must indicate the source of the crime data in the narrative and must include a summary of the crime data by general crime category, (e.g., murders, assaults, property damage, and property break-ins).

3. What if the crime data and news articles are in Spanish is that an issue?

No, crime data and news articles in Spanish is not an issue. HUD will review.

Applicant Eligibility/Threshold

4. Who can apply, Public Housing and Section 8 PHAs?

No. Only Public Housing units under an Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) are eligible for funding. Emergency Safety and Security grants can only be used to cover eligible expenses to address threats to resident safety caused by a safety and security emergency. Grants must be used for Capital Fund eligible items that address an emergency capital need (see 24 C.F.R. § 905.200(b), Eligible Activities of the Capital Fund). The capital need request must address the identified threat posed to the health and safety of a PHA's public housing residents by crime and drug-related activity, fire, or by the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning.

5. Does this include Project based Section 8?

No. Only Public Housing units under an Annual Contribution Contract (ACC) are eligible for funding.

6. Why are units under a “Commitment to enter into a Housing Assistance Payment” (CHAP) excluded?

We only have a limited amount of funding for Safety and Security grants. Therefore, projects that have a CHAP for the project are not eligible for Emergency Safety and Security funding. If a PHA receives a CHAP for conversion of a project after receiving emergency safety and security funding and prior to fully expending the grant, the PHA will be required to return all unexpended funds. If a PHA receives a CHAP for partial conversion of a project after receiving emergency safety and security funding and prior to fully expending the grant, the PHA will not be allowed to expend any additional funds on the units to be converted and will be subject to a partial recapture of funds.

- 7. If we have several different sites, could we get the grant at site one this year and then site two a different year?**

Yes, you can apply for one site or multiple sites, but you are still limited to the \$250,000 per FY grant limit and the one-time funding limit by project and for each broad purpose (crime prevention, CO detectors, smoke/heat alarms detectors).

- 8. Is there a minimum # of PH Units that the PHA has to have in order to apply?**

No

- 9. If a PHA property received funding for crime and drug related activity in a previous year, they are ineligible to reapply for ESSG for that purpose, regardless of how long ago it was?**

Yes. However, the PHA could apply for one of the other two broad purposes (carbon monoxide alarms/detectors, and/or smoke/heat alarms/detectors). (Per paragraph 3 of PIH Notice 2023-10)

- 10. Can I add security cameras and CO2/ fire detectors to my 5-year CFP action plan just in case my emergency grant does not get funded so that I can move money around if need be?**

Yes, this is acceptable, but the PHA would need to amend their Five-Year Action Plan in EPIC.

- 11. If a PHA is applying for a mixed finance site, do they need to include documentation showing that they have the required matching funds available? If so, what type of documentation would be acceptable?**

Yes, submit financial statements for mixed finance development that shows available funds.

Application Evaluation

- 12. How are the regional lottery entries ranked?**

Should the total funding requested from eligible applications exceed available funds, the Department will select eligible applications for funding through a lottery process designed to achieve a broad national distribution of funds, based on the Departmental Regions (Regions 1 through 10). At a minimum, set-aside funding would fund at least one application in each Region, assuming eligible applications from each Region and sufficient available funds.

- 13. Are eligible applicants entered into a lottery, from which funded projects will be selected? Does that mean that submission criteria are not weighted, such as strength of narrative or need?**

Yes, all eligible applications are placed into the lottery. Applications are reviewed and deemed eligible, or ineligible based on the criteria in PIH Notice 2023-10.

Eligible/Ineligible Activities

The list of eligible items is not an exclusive list. You should email the SafetyandSecurityQuestions@hud.gov for questions regarding eligibility of expenses.

- 14. Does Emergency Alarm Systems include fire alarm/sprinkler systems?**

Yes

- 15. Are CO detectors still eligible, even though PIH Notice 2022-01 required that they be installed in PH by 12/2022?**

Yes

- 16. Must the PHA have suffered a loss to tie back to the emergency need for smoke detectors?**

No

- 17. With fire/emergency safety, could the purchase of fire extinguishers and their certification be an eligible purchase?**

Fire extinguishers could be an eligible item if they are integral to maintain safe and secure properties, including to address instances of arson that has occurred in the current fiscal year.

- 18. Are Storm doors allowable?**

Yes, security storm doors with locks are allowable as an expense as long as they are tied to a Safety and Security emergency.

- 19. Is outdoor Lighting an eligible expense?**

Yes, outdoor lighting for the exterior of buildings, walkways, and parking lots. It could also be interior lighting for hallways, stairwells, and common areas.

20. Is installation of handicap/automatic doors at entrances of building allowed?

Yes, as long as it is tied to the safety and security emergency.

21. Can we convert from gas to electric ranges to limit exposure to carbon monoxide sources?

Yes, it could be an eligible item as long as it is tied directly to a safety and security emergency at the PHA. For example, if the PHA has experienced malfunctioning gas stoves (emergencies should be due to the equipment and not merely because they are gas stoves, and the same argument could be made for gas heat) or if there is a local law (certain California counties require if there is new construction or substantial rehabilitation and also upcoming requirement in NYC) requiring a conversion to electric ranges, then it could be eligible.

22. Can I apply for the cost of installation and any needed materials if I already purchased cameras?

Yes, but you cannot reimburse yourself for the purchase of the cameras.

23. Can a PHA apply if they already purchased and installed smoke detectors? Can we still apply for this reason?

Yes, if the smoke detectors installed are obsolete or do not meet HUD current requirements. PHAs cannot apply to reimburse themselves for the purchase of smoke detectors already purchased and installed. Smoke alarms must be sealed or hard-wired devices that meet the requirements of section 601 of Title VI, "Smoke Alarms in Federally Assisted Housing" in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, (Public Law 117-328 enacted December 29, 2022) which added section 3(a)(9) to of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a))
<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr2617/BILLS-117hr2617enr.pdf>

24. Is hardwire smoke detectors - sealed unit or battery backup acceptable?

Yes, smoke alarms must be sealed or hard-wired devices that meet the requirements of section 601 of Title VI, "Smoke Alarms in Federally Assisted Housing" in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, (Public Law 117-328 enacted December 29, 2022) which added section 3(a)(9) to of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a))
<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr2617/BILLS-117hr2617enr.pdf>

25. Are license plate readers eligible items?

Yes, license plate readers are eligible items.

26. Are electronic access gates included in fencing?

Yes, and that is an eligible item.

27. Are health and safety items related to the new HUD INSPIRE requirements eligible for ESSG funding?

Yes, see below eligible items related to INSPIRE standards:

*Per the INSPIRE standards unit must include at least one battery-operated or hard-wired **smoke detector**, in proper working condition, in the following locations:*

(A) On each level of the unit;

(B) Inside each bedroom;

(C) Within 21 feet of any door to a bedroom measured along a path of travel; and

(D) Where a smoke detector installed outside a bedroom is separated from an adjacent living area by a door, a smoke detector must also be installed on the living area side of the door.

Note: *If the unit is occupied by any hearing-impaired person, the smoke detectors must have an alarm system designed for hearing-impaired persons;*

*Per INSPIRE standards the unit must meet or exceed the **carbon monoxide detection** standards set by HUD through Federal Register notification;*

*Per INSPIRE standards a unit must have a **guardrail** when there is an elevated walking surface with a drop off of 30 inches or greater measured vertically.*

*Per INSPIRE standards - inside, outside and unit must be free of health and safety hazards that pose a danger to residents. Types of health and safety concerns include, but are not limited to **carbon monoxide, electrical hazards, flammable materials, or other fire hazards.** Items related to a safety and security emergency to these hazards would be eligible for ESSG*

Other

28. Is there an updated version of 2023-10 PIH Notice?

The most current notice is posted on our website.

29. May we have the link to the presentation?

The link to the presentation and the slides will be posted to the OCI Emergency grant webpage:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/capfund/emfunding

