

**FY2024 Emergency Safety and Security Webinar**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Application Due Date: March 27, 2024, by 5:00pm Eastern Daylight Time**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**How To Apply.....Q1-4**  
**Applicant Eligibility/Threshold..... Q5-14**  
**Application Evaluation.....Q15-17**  
**Eligible/Ineligible Activities.....Q18-33**  
**Other.....Q34-35**

**How to Apply**

- 1. Can you confirm that the period we are looking at is Oct 1, 2023, to present?**

*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. The current Federal Fiscal Year is October 1,2023- September 30,2024.*

- 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, 2023, and September 30, 2024?**

*Yes, the current Federal Fiscal Year is October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. You must demonstrate in a detailed narrative how crime at or 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?***

*HUD will review crime data and news articles that are submitted in Spanish.*

**4. *Are the forms SF-LLL, HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP, and HUD-50071 required to be submitted with the application?***

*No, the following forms are submitted post-award with the EPIC document package (along with the signed ESSG ACC Amendment):*

- *Form HUD-50071, Certification of Payments to Influence Federal Transactions*
- *Standard Form (SF)-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities*
- *Certification of Compliance with PHA Plans and Related Regulations. (For PHAs with 250 units or more: Form HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP, and for PHAs with less than 250 units: HUD-50077-CRT-SM)*  
*Note: In lieu of submitting a new form, PHAs may provide a copy of the HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP or HUD-50077-CRT-SM, from the most recent PHA Plan submission (do not submit entire PHA Plan).*

MTW agencies may submit a copy of the MTW certifications of compliance submitted with the most recent MTW Agency Plan

### **Applicant Eligibility/Threshold**

#### **5. Who can apply, Public Housing and Section 8 PHAs?**

*Only Public Housing Agencies can apply for funding and only public housing units under an Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) are eligible for funding. If a PHA has both PH units and non-PH units, ESSG funds must only be used to pay for a proportionate share of the costs for the total project based on the percentage of PH units in the project. (E.g. 50% of the units are PH and 50% non-PH, the ESSG can only be used to pay for 50% of the project cost. The PHA must come up with the other 50% from non-PH sources.*

*ESSG 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 the emergency capital need (see 24 C.F.R. § 905.200(b), Eligible Activities of the Capital Fund). The 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.*

#### **6. Does this include Project based Section 8?**

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

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

*We only have a limited amount of funding for Safety and Security grants. Therefore, Asset Management Projects (AMPs) that have a CHAP for the project are not eligible for Emergency Safety and Security Funding (AMPs with a CHAP for partial conversion are also ineligible to apply). 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 be required to return all unexpended funds.*

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

*A PHA can apply for funding for one or more of its projects for one or more purposes, but the grant is limited to \$250,000 per application cycle. Additionally, there is a one-time funding limited by AMP. A PHA is ineligible to receive ESSG funding if it has previously received ESSG*

*funding for the same AMP for the same broad purpose (crime prevention, CO detectors, smoke/heat alarms detectors). If a PHA receives ESSG funding this year for a particular AMP, the PHA cannot apply for ESSG funding for the same broad purpose at the same AMP in following years.*

**9. Is there a minimum number of public housing units that the PHA has to have in order to apply?**

*No.*

**10. 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)*

**11. 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.*

**12. Can the ESSG application include items that are in the 5-year Action Plan?**

*Yes, you can include items in the approved 5-year Action Plan in EPIC. If the PHA is not funded under ESSG, the PHA can do the work with Capital Funds.*

**13. 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. ESSG funds must only be used to pay for a proportionate share of the costs for the total project based on the percentage of PH units in the project. (E.g. 50% of the units are PH and 50% non-PH, the ESSG can only be used to pay for 50% of the project cost. The PHA must come up with the other 50% from non-PH sources.)*

**14. Can a PHA correct errors in their application?**

*Yes, as long as the corrected application with all documents in a single PDF is submitted to the [PIHOCI@hud.gov](mailto:PIHOCI@hud.gov) mailbox prior to the application due date (March 27, 2024, at 5:00 EDT). The PHA should put in the subject line that it is submitting a revised application and the date and time of the original submission and that the PHA would like HUD to replace the previous submission with the revised submission.*

**Application Evaluation**

**15. How many (eligible) applications are funded in each round?**

*There are 10 HUD regions. Therefore, there will be 10 eligible applications funded in each round as long as there are eligible applications to be funded in all 10 regions for that round.*

**16. 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.*

**17. 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**

**18. Is there a list of eligible items?**

*The list of eligible items is not an exclusive list. You should email the [SafetyandSecurityQuestions@hud.gov](mailto:SafetyandSecurityQuestions@hud.gov) for questions regarding eligibility of expenses.*

**19. Are emergency evacuation chairs for mobility impaired residents eligible (in case of a fire) in a high-rise building?**

*Yes.*

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

*Yes.*

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

*Yes, CO Detectors would have to meet NSPIRE standards.*

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

*No.*

**23. 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.*

**24. Are storm doors allowable?**

*Yes, security storm doors with locks are an allowable expense as long as they are tied to a Safety and Security emergency in the current federal fiscal year.*

**25. Is outdoor Lighting an eligible expense?**

*Yes, outdoor lighting for the exterior of buildings, walkways, and parking lots is an eligible expense. Interior lighting for hallways, stairwells, and common areas could also be an eligible expense.*

**26. Is installation of handicap/automatic doors at entrances of the building allowed?**

*Yes, as long as it is tied to a safety and security emergency in the current federal fiscal year.*

**27. 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.*

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

*Yes, but ESSG cannot be used for the reimbursement of costs already incurred for the purchase of the cameras.*

**29. 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. If the PHA previously received ESSG funding for smoke detectors, they would only be eligible if they are applying replace detectors that don't meet the current code. Smoke alarms*

*must be sealed battery 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>

**30. Are hardwired smoke detectors - sealed unit or battery backup acceptable?**

*Yes, smoke alarms must be sealed battery 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>

**31. Are license plate readers eligible items?**

*Yes, license plate readers are eligible items.*

**32. Are electronic access gates included in fencing and is exterior lighting eligible?**

*Yes, electronic access gates can be included in fencing or as a separate work activity. Fencing, electronic access gates, and exterior lighting are all eligible items.*

**33. Are health and safety items related to the new HUD NSPIRE requirements eligible for ESSG funding?**

*Yes, see below eligible items related to NSPIRE standards:*

*Per the NSPIRE standards unit must include at least one sealed battery 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 NSPIRE standards the unit must meet or exceed the **carbon monoxide detection** standards set by HUD through Federal Register notification;*

Per NSPIRE 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 NSPIRE 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**

### **34. Is there an updated version of [PIH Notice 2023-10](#)?**

*The most current notice (Published April 21, 2023 and amended June 14, 2023) is posted on our [website](#):*

*[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/ph/capfund/emfundig](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/capfund/emfundig)*

*Note: PIH Notice 2023-10 has been amended in part by this year's ESSG application announcement.*

### **35. May we have the link to the Webinar 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](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/capfund/emfunding)*