

Q: Is there a possible extension to the NOFA if people would like more time to collaborate?

A: In order to get funding out to the community by 7/1, the NOFA deadline cannot be extended.

Q: Will there be more than one technical engagement workshop?

A: There will be one Technical Assistance Workshop. It will be recorded and posted on the ARPA website.

Q: Will the county provide templates for subcontract agreements for the fiscal lead to use? Will we provide MOU templates?

A: The county will not provide subcontract or MOU templates. There are free templates available online.

Q: Why is the county prioritizing collaborative funding applications? Who can apply?

A: In order to adequately address community needs and comply with federal funding requirements, partnerships are highly encouraged. Eligible proposers include private for-profit and public or private non-profit agencies as well as County Departments and other governmental entities.

Q: Where does hunger fall? Direct assistance to households?

A: Yes, food assistance falls under Assistance to Households/Basic Needs.

Q: Can you be more specific about policy tools vs. programs?

A: The County will be reviewing internal policies based on recommendation received via the community needs assessment.

Q: Under Educational Disparities, are elementary school students covered?

A: Per ARPA Final Rule: When providing services to address lost instructional time, *recipients may presume that any K-12 student who lost access to in-person instruction for a significant period of time has been impacted by the pandemic and is thus eligible for responsive services.*

Q: Would programs supporting diverse leaders in public service to make their work and lives sustainable be part of the Ed disparities or Small BIPOC businesses etc?

A: It will be up to applicants to show how the services they are proposing are eligible under the Final Rule.

Q: Would immigration legal services and supports fall into Direct Assistance to Households as this is a vital issue to many most impacted by CV19? Thanks.

A: It will be up to applicants to show how the services they are proposing are eligible under the Final Rule. The County will review proposal eligibility prior to proposals going to a review committee.

Q: How about general capacity building around systems and data management?

A: It will be up to applicants to show how the services they are proposing are eligible under the Final Rule. Funding for capacity building and data management should be built into the proposed program/project budget.

Q: Curious if promotores efforts will align with new Medi-Cal changes that allow for billing services by "community health workers" which are similar to Promotores.

A: Reach out to [DHCS](#) to confirm

Q: When is the NOFA going to be released and what is the timeline? What is the funding timeline please?

A: The County is hoping to release the NOFA in February. The Board of Supervisors will make the final determination on proposals at the end of May. Contracts will begin July 1, 2022.

Q: What type of mechanisms are you going to use for the evaluation and selection of the awards? Will there be a rubric, form, rating system, etc. used?

A: The rating system for scoring proposals will be outlined in the NOFA.

Q: Are you attempting to award many organizations with smaller amounts of money or fewer organizations with larger amounts of money or a combination of both?

A: The County is hoping to award fewer organizations with larger amounts of money.

Q: How many awards and what size are you planning on?

A: Please see above.

Q: Are you going to require performance outcomes by the recipients to be reported back to your committee?

A: Yes! There will be technical assistance and support to set performance measures and outcomes with awardees. Outcomes will be reported on the public ARPA website and to the Board of Supervisors.

Q: If grantees are sub-recipients is the county the main contractor-recipient?

A: The county is the main recipient of ARPA funds, those chosen to enter into contracts after the proposal period will be considered sub-recipients.

Q: Is it possible that the disbursements be done without a 30-60 day waiting period for reimbursement as the county generally does? In other words, do we have to fund our projects for the first 2 months or so out of our own funds, as we wait for reimbursements?

A: HSD is committed to reimbursing contractors as soon as possible. Invoices must be scrutinized for eligible expenses in compliance with ARPA regulations. The County is looking to see if advances for the provision of direct client assistance can be provided; however, contracts will be set up for cost reimbursement.

Q: For partnerships do proposals need to include formal letters of commitment? Does that depend on the amount of the budget request going to a partner entity?

A: It is not required, but recommended that fiscal sponsors do enter into MOUs or formal letters of commitment with partners. This will be the responsibility of the fiscal sponsors and partners, not the County.

Q: If an applicant doesn't have a Negotiated Indirect Rate with the Feds should we assume a 10% indirect rate or some other formula?

A: Yes, if an applicant doesn't have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate they should assume a 10% indirect rate.

Q: Can one org put in multiple applications with different focuses or should there be one application per org?

A: There should be one application per proposed program.

Q: Is it possible that the County could recommend that groups who submit like applications team up? It would be enormously helpful.

A: The County cannot make direct recommendations on which organizations can team up.

Q: How is the County defining/distinguishing what a small vs. large non-profit looks like?

A: The County is not making a distinction between small and large nonprofits. The County will be looking for organizations/agencies with experience administering federal funding to take the lead as fiscal sponsors, or for organizations without that prior experience who feel ready and able to take on that responsibility to lead as fiscal sponsors.

Q: Maybe we should prioritize some funds for going out the door very quickly

A: The Board of Supervisors approved \$9M in Rapid Economic Assistance. The County is in the process of determining the best and fastest way to get that out to those that need it most.

Q: Homelessness is not part of the “area for solicitation” process but it is one of the Priority Funding Areas as “Housing and Shelter”. Could someone clarify what is happening with this?

A: At this stage the County is still waiting for clarity whether housing and shelter will still be part of the NOFA process.

Q: How will the NOFA evaluations and decisions on who to fund be better, or different, than the current process? Who will be on the review committee?

A: A NOFA will allow for more creativity in that an applicant will propose an eligible program, rather than the County dictating a specific program activity. The review committee has not been selected yet, but will be comprised of individuals that do not have a conflict of interest in reviewing proposals.

Q: So it will be one year funding with a second year option based on transparent reporting of successful efforts?

A: Yes, funding will be based on successful reporting of year 1 outcomes.

Q: I would like to see the County set up some shared space for small organizations. Some of it should be office space; some should be warehouse space. For homelessness, we need a large room where we can collect and then distribute winter warmth items. We also need office space with shared Information Technology, wifi, good copy machines. This could be a space where shared work could also happen.

A: As part of the County's strategic plan, they are exploring the creation of community hubs (shared space) for county programs and community based organizations to share.

Q: I'm curious if anyone else feels that one huge lack is work on the drug crisis? With Fentanyl, the stakes are so high. I would like to see a big effort made on this.

A: The Final Rule covers an expansive array of services for prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction for mental health, substance use, and other behavioral health challenges caused or exacerbated by the public health emergency. It will be up to applicants to show how the services they are proposing are eligible under the Final Rule and the NOFA.

Q: If we are the subrecipient, when we subcontract with smaller nonprofits, do those nonprofits either have to serve impacted communities or have been directly impacted (as defined by the Final Rule)? This may be a challenge for some agencies, since they don't do direct services and may not be able to show economic impact .

A: The funding ultimately needs to be used to serve Disproportionately Impacted or Impacted households and communities or Disproportionately Impacted or Impacted Small Businesses or Nonprofits. Those that are directly impacted are beneficiaries of the assistance, not subcontractors. It will be up to the applicant to show how the program/project being proposed responds to these populations and is an eligible use of ARPA funds.

Q: Can this funding be used by a nonprofit organization for capital expenses?

A: Capital Expenses are eligible under the Final Rule, though there are specific standards that must be met. If proposing a project that includes capital expenditures, please review the Final Rule section General Provisions: Other for eligible uses. It will be up to applicants to show how the services they are proposing are eligible under the Final Rule and the NOFA.