

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Emergency Food Services Capacity Building Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Questions

Please note all questions and answers may be paraphrased for clarity.

Pre-Conference Questions

Question: Could you please point to the “ARPA related criteria” referenced in Section 4, Question A? The question asks for the applicant to show their “organized methodology to meet all ARPA related criteria.” In answering the question, it would be helpful to know exactly what criteria the question is referencing.

Answer: Please see the following links for the ARPA Final Rule and ARPA FAQs for your reference. We highly recommend reviewing these documents prior to completing the application.

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf>

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-FAQ.pdf>

Question: The NOFA states that “activities funded under this NOFA must be new or enhancements to existing activities.” Does a project that increases capacity (i.e. warehouse, equipment, etc.) to get more food out into the community meet this “newness” requirement?

Answer: Yes, expansion would meet this requirement. This is mostly in place to ensure funds will not supplant existing funds for current operations and that they will be used to truly help grow your ability to provide emergency food.

Mandatory Applicant’s Conference

10/12/22 – Via Microsoft TEAMS 2:00 – 2:30

Question: For agencies who previously received funding for the provision of emergency food services under ARPA, is it an acceptable use of the capacity building funds to support the expansion funded by that grant?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Hoping to use funding for a van, can you receive funding instead of reimbursement?

Answer: You may request “front loading” to get the funds up front by specifically stating it in the application and include an explanation about why it is needed. It will need to be included in your contract if you are awarded funds under this NOFA.

Question: How should we reflect that there are multiple entities in our application?

Answer: Make sure to show the primary applicant but include all applicants.

Question: Is it correct that agencies that had their applications transferred from the previous emergency food services NOFA don't have to fill out a new application, only update?

Answer: Yes, that is correct.

Question: Will reporting be the same as the quarterly report for the organizations that received funding under the previous emergency food services NOFA? Even if grant funds have been spent?

Answer: As of right now, they will be the same report but is subject to change. Also at this time, plan to complete a report every quarter through the end of the ARPA program. If we can discontinue that requirement once all funds are spent, we will do so.

Question: Is there a definition of "direct service"?

Answer: Not an official definition, but it is the transfer of goods (food) from organization to clients.

Question: Was something sent out (to potential applicants)?

Answer: The NOFA package was sent to applicants of the emergency food NOFA. It is available on the website under the County Administrator's webpage. We will post a fillable PDF version approximately the week of October 17th, 2022.