**Teleconference Call on 2020-2021 EHH Application**

**03/13/2020**

**Changes to 2020-2021 EHH Application**

* New Attachment: Minimum habitability standards for emergency shelters
  + Can be done by agency staff; does not need to be an outside entity
* New Attachment: Meeting minutes in which lead agency is selected and approved
* Revised Attachment: EHH Certification
  + Replaces external HUD COC Certification

**Revised EHH Program Manual**

* Will be released next week
* Most revisions are clarifications
* Policies/requirements will specify the funding source(s) on which they apply
  + Be aware of HPP/HAP being used as match to ESG or COC
* Fair Market Rent (FMR)
  + HPP and HAP (not being used as match) can provide financial assistance to units up to 110% FMR – DEHCR can also grant exceptions on units above 110%.
* Lease term
  + This policy was changed to be consistent with federal regulation. While one-year leases are encouraged, month-to-month leases are allowable
* HAP funds clarification
  + At least 25% of client income must be spent on rent
* Income eligibility for rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention programs
  + ESG - 30% county median income (CMI)
  + HPP - 60% CMI; DEHCR can grant exceptions up to 80% CMI
  + HAP - no income requirement

**Q & A from Call Participants**

**Question: What will be the 2020-2021 grant period?**

**Answer:** The grant period will be 15 months from July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

**Question: Regarding the Minimum Habitability Standards for emergency shelter, who is the evaluator? The approving official?**

**Answer:** The ESG Recipient is the Lead Agency. The ESG Subrecipient is the emergency shelter. The Evaluator is the person completing the evaluation. The Approving Official Signature is the person with signatory authority from the emergency shelter (ex. Executive Director).

**Question: If we have shelters in multiple locations, do we need to fill out multiple Minimum Habitability Standards checklists?**

**Answer:** Yes. A checklist should be completed for each location.

**Question: Do we need permission from DEHCR to use HPP for units up to 110% Fair Market Rent (FMR)?**

**Answer:** If you are not using HPP for match to ESG, you can serve units up to 110% FMR without explicit permission. If you want to serve a unit above 110%, you must receive prior approval from DEHCR.

**Question: What should a lead agency do if their subrecipient is not compliant with coordinated entry or the CoC Written Standards?**

**Answer:** Compliance with coordinated entry and CoC Written Standards is a requirement for ESG funding. If noncompliance is discovered, an agency should be given the opportunity/training to make corrections. If corrections are not made in a reasonable time frame (30-60 days), they are ineligible for ESG funding and will not receive reimbursement. The lead agency should then reallocate the funding of the noncompliant agency to others.

**Question: When will the Balance of State Written Standards for emergency shelters be released?**

**Answer:** The new standards will be approved by the Balance of State Board of Directors in May. Implementation of the standards is planned to start July 1st.

**Question: What were the components of the allocation funding formula?**

**Answer:** There were four main components:

1. Total households served (via HMIS) (20%)
2. Average monthly individuals served (via Housing Inventory Chart) (30%)
3. Point-in-Time count from January 2019 (20%)
4. HMIS Performance Measures (for EHH-funding programs only) (30%)
   * % exits to/retention of permanent housing
     1. Not counting shelter-to-shelter exits
   * % returns to homelessness after two years

Additional components:

* Coalitions that had unspent funds in the 2018-2019 grant cycle had their 2020-2021 allocation capped at the total amount spent during 2018-2019 cycle.
* The maximum ESG/HPP award for any coalition was $600,000.
* Excess funds (due to allocations being capped) were distributed to coalitions with reduced awards; this resulted in no award being reduced by more than 9% from the 2019-2020 cycle