

2010-2011 NHAP Application Questions and Answers

1. **Question:** What is the submission deadline for the 2010-2011 NHAP Application?

Answer: The submission deadline is **Wednesday, February 24th, 2010 by 5:00 PM CST.** Applications may only be submitted via U.S. postal mail.

2. **Question:** Would a HUD SHP-funded program that focuses on transitioning homeless youth (ages 16-24) into independent living qualify for funding through NHAP in addition to its SHP funding? Participants in the SHP are able to be in the program for up to 24 months even though it is an internal program objective to transition them within 12 to 18 months.

Answer: Though emergency shelters are obviously the primary focus of the Program, ESG funds can be used for transitional housing (per the definition of emergency shelter at 24 CFR 576.3 and item 1.1 in the ESG Desk Guide). As long as the SHP and ESG funds aren't paying for the exact same thing (i.e. the same hour of the case manager's time), it would not be 'double dipping' of Federal funds.

3. **Question:** My agency provides services in more than one Continuum of Care region (http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/fia/nhap/c_of_c.htm) and we intend to seek funding for BOTH of those regions. Must we submit two separate NHAP applications?

Answer: Yes. If an agency has programs in different Continuums of Care, the agency MUST submit separate applications for each Continuum of Care region. The agency must also be active in each Continuum region in which it has programs.

4. **Question:** How do I procure the 2009 HUD (*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*) Continuum of Care (CoC) Exhibit I documents for any of the six NHAP non-entitlement Continuum regions?

Answer: As referenced in *Section VI: Continuum of Care—Community Outcome, F. Continuum of Care* within the 2010-2011 NHAP Application, you may procure any of the 2009 HUD NOFA CoC Exhibit I documents by emailing Charles Coley, NHAP Coordinator, at charles.coley@nebraska.gov.

5. **Question:** In *Section III: Program Data, C. Demographic Data*, how do the terms "Hispanic/Latino" compare/contrast with the overall "Racial Background" section of data?

Answer: For DHHS NHAP reporting purposes, the terms "Hispanic/Latino" refer to an ethnicity generally and not a racial background specifically. In summation, neither "Hispanic" nor "Latino" refers to race because an individual of Latino or Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race. Like non-Latinos, a Latino can be of any single race: White, Black/African-American/American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, etc. Therefore, an NHAP applicant's overall Program Data totals for the "Ethnicity" column should equal the overall numbers of reported Program Data within the "Racial Background" column within *Section III: Program Data, C. Demographic Data*.

5. **Question:** How much funding should my agency request in its NHAP budget?

Answer: How an agency chooses to budget its NHAP funding request is to the discretion of the agency.

6. **Question:** What is the total amount of NHAP funding that will be awarded?

Answer: Although NHAP grant amounts for the July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011 fiscal year are not yet finalized, what can be offered at present are funding amounts for the current fiscal year (*July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010*). It is anticipated that funding amounts for the upcoming fiscal year (2010-2011) will approximately equal those of the current fiscal year (2009-2010).

For the current NHAP FY, the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG, *which is an annual Federal allocation*) project amount for the six NHAP non-entitlement Continuum of Care regions is \$596,273. The Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF, *State funding that is matched with ESG funding to represent the overall NHAP grant award*) is \$1,402,060. The overall NHAP budget for the current fiscal year (*for the six NHAP non-entitlement Continuum of Care regions*) is therefore \$1,998,333.

For the six NHAP non-entitlement Continuum regions, the highest and lowest funded projects for the current fiscal year are as follows (respectively):

Region I: \$72,151 and \$15,009
Region II: \$136,438 and \$3,287
Region III: \$48,019 and \$18,755
Region IV: \$104,264 and \$16,745
Region V: \$124,486 and \$43,340
Region VI: \$78,880 and \$10,000

7. **Question:** Would the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program be an appropriate activity under the Client Services and Homeless Prevention categories?

Answer: SOAR case management elements specific to client benefits acquisition may be considered eligible for funding ONLY under the “Client Services” eligible activity of the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF) specifically as detailed in the 2010-2011 NHAP RFA (see *Section IV: Services Description*). **SOAR is not an eligible activity of the Emergency Shelter Grant.**

8. **Question:** Would a Tribal agency targeting an American Indian population within reservation boundaries be an eligible applicant/target population/service area?

Answer: Per the ESG (Emergency Shelter Grant) regulations at 24 CFR 576.25 (and further explained in section 2.4 of the ESG Desk Guide), States can only provide ESG funding to units of general local government and private nonprofit organizations. The tribe may have established a private nonprofit organization that would qualify to receive State ESG funding. However, HUD Headquarters has previously specified that a tribe does not qualify as a unit of general local government. Although this guidance was for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, ESG often utilizes CDBG guidance and it is believed that the same definition would be applicable. Furthermore, per 24 CFR 576.31, it appears that there is a separate ESG set-aside for tribes, which the tribe could investigate.

9. **Question:** If I wish to learn more regarding the gaps in housing and services that were detailed in any of the 2009 Continuum of Care Exhibit I documents for a specific Continuum region, whom do I contact?

Answer: You should contact the chairperson for that specific Continuum of Care region(s). To access contact information for any of the regional Continuum chairpersons, simply double click your mouse on a specific Continuum region map located at http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/fia/nhap/c_of_c.htm.

10. **Question:** For the 2010-2011 NHAP grant application, is a full audit required or would an audit of my agency's operating budget suffice?

Answer: Per state requirements of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the minimum audit requirement for program grantees is a "Review." As listed in the NHAP 2010-2011 RFA, an applicant must "conduct and submit the organization's annual, certified, external audit for the year immediately preceding the application to be eligible for NHAP funding."

11. **Question:** For the 2010-2011 NHAP grant application (on the budgeting section), are the totals to reflect one or two years of programs costs?

Answer: The funds requested are to cover only one year for the July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011 FY.

12. **Question:** Should an organization submit more than one application for services provided within one Continuum of Care region?

Answer: No. One application is submitted from each agency within specific Continuums of Care, regardless of the number of its programs. If an agency has programs within more than one Continuum region, however, the agency submits separate applications for each Continuum of Care region (http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/fia/nhap/c_of_c.htm). See "Question #3" for further guidance.

13. **Question:** Is Historic Preservation an allowable expense of the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program?

Answer: No. Please note, however, that while there is no NHAP eligible activity specific to historic preservation, "Facility Rehabilitation" is an eligible activity of NHAP funding. As stated in the 2010-2011 NHAP RFA (Section IV: Services Description), "Facility Rehabilitation is defined as follows: Expenses related to the construction, maintenance or improvement of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program including materials, tools and other costs related to structural improvement of homeless facilities; installation of security devices; improvements to increase energy efficiency; changes necessary to make a facility handicapped accessible.

14. **Question:** May my agency seek "Emergency Shelter Renovation, Rehabilitation, or Conversion" funding?

Answer: For Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) "Emergency Shelter Renovation, Rehabilitation, or Conversion," funding, please note that the guidelines are

specified in the *Online ESG Desk Guide* found at
<http://hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewEsgDeskguideSec3#3-1>.