Office on Homelessness and Council on Homelessness Funding Policy

New Structure of Contracts

Move Emergency Solutions Grant Funding to a multi-year contract (3 or 5 year**) open only to Continuum of Care Lead Agencies** for funding providers in their CoC. Award levels in coming years based not on a new solicitation but on performance measures and outcomes (and pending funding amounts appropriated).

Move Challenge and TANF grant funding to multi-year contracts open only to CoC Lead Agencies in accordance with statute with award levels in coming years to be based on established performance measures and outcomes.

Benefits to Lead Agencies

- Reduce grant applications submitted
- Reduction of time on appeals—unfunded providers can apply in a smaller pool of applicants in the next grant cycle
- Funding readily available at FY start--reduce lag-time between application and contract execution
- Allows for better budgeting—you will be funded at this level for 5 years (as long as the Federal award remains the same)
- Providers have full FY to spend
- Providers not funded in year 1 are not competing against same # of providers for funding in the next grant cycle
- Will allow applications from new providers
- New funding will be amended into new FY—along with service benefits and performance measures
- Potential for new $ if performance measures are met and no new applications are received

Contract Managers Benefits

- Reduction of solicitation process for regional contract managers
- Allows for full contract period to spend funds
- Reduces time on appeals--- means contracts can be executed quicker
- Allows for more streamlined performance measures—more consistency across regions and less returns or audits from DFS (contract template provided—no changes only additions for region specifics with Program Office approval)

DCF/Program Benefits

- Reduction of time going through yearly solicitation process
- Allows for grant to spend funds---reduce amount of funding reverting or left unspent
- Reduces time on appeals or less appeals being filed---unfunded providers can apply in the next grant cycle with fewer applicants
- Streamlined performance measures---better indication of who performed under grant
- Can put solicitation out sooner---don't wait on HUD $$ amounts or award letter (use approximate $$ in solicitation)
- Allows for better planning when requesting spending authority—no accounting for time

lag between grant application and execution

Benefits to CoC's

Decease the workload at NOFA grant application
Reduce the # of certifications being sought during the grant application process
Reduce lag-time in contract execution
Applicants not funded can re-apply in the next grant cycle
Existing language of solicitation would allow new applications in the next funding year

Proposed Timelines TBA; these policy issues have been dependent on recent legislation.

Mulit-year contract -5 years

1. Contract would include same $$ for each contract year along with year 1 deliverables/standards
2. Awards would be amended into contracts along with deliverables and performance evals, if dollar amount changes
3. New providers would be able to apply annually along with providers who were not funded the previous grant cycle
4. Retain funding for new providers--$500,000 for eligible activities
5. Unexpended funding would roll-over for high performing providers (based on performance standards)

Contracting with lead agencies for all Homeless Grants

Challenges to new method

ESG

1. Capacity issues within certain lead agencies to administrate the funding.
2. Ensuring funding is available July 1st----contracts will keep same $$ and deliverables until amended to include new $ amounts and deliverables
3. Ensuring performance measures are met from previous year---tracking before start of new contract (high performers are re-awarded contracts, possibly add'l $$)
4. Potential cross-over providers---only being able to apply for 1 category of funding
5. Opportunity to apply for funding opens every 5 years
6. Performance measures that truly measure performance of sub-providers and lead agencies capacity to manage funds/sub-providers
7. Written standards approvals (PDHO prior to contract execution)????---require minimum written standards in grant application (sub-providers agreements/standards must be submitted to regional contract managers and PDHO)
8. Basis of funding

Challenge

1. If CoC's don't apply, they are prevented from applying for 5 years
2. Performance measures that measure and rewards high performing providers
3. Basis of funding

TANF

1. If CoC's don't apply, they are prevented from applying for 5 years

2. Performance measures that measure and rewards for high performing providers
3. Basis of funding

ISSUES------

1. Participation in CoC by all sub-providers (deliverables)
2. Monitoring of performance (financial consequences for CoC, possible for sub-providers following year with no sub-contract)
3. On-site monitoring of low capacity CoC/lad agencies to ensure measures are in place to assess and capture info/docs from providers (PDHO)
4. Template for monthly deliverables------invoice submission for ESG
5. Monthly reporting (for ESG CAPEER submission)
6. CoC certification for ESG in areas with no CoC presence (Highlands, DeSoto, Hardee. etc.)
7. Growing pains ---first year implementation???