

RI Nonprofit Support Fund II

Additional Q&A from Info Session on November 29, 2021

- 1) Can these funds be used to cover salary costs for new positions directly related to cover needs?
 - CRF may be used to pay for salaries the employee's time related to one or more of the following eligible activity areas:
 - i) those directly attributed to addressing the public health and public safety response effort under the broad categories of public health, public safety, health care, and human services;
 - ii) those directly attributable to activities that prevent community spread in public spaces, including reconfiguration of office spaces and enhanced sanitation efforts.

- 2) I'm with a separate 501 (c)(3) that provides out of school time programs and other services for The UCAP School - we received funding through the first round last year. Are we eligible to apply?
 - Based on eligibility for the first round, you would be eligible to apply for this round of funding.

- 3) Are we required to follow the normal Uniform Guidance procurement standards of obtaining at least two quotes for all purchases? Is this true if the expenses were already incurred?
 - Yes, UGG applies to CRF grants.

- 4) If PPP expired on 11/30/20 then are we able to use salary expenses after 11/30/20
 - If the salary expenses were not funded by another federal funding or grant program (PPP) then they would be eligible expenses if:
 - i) those directly attributed to addressing the public health and public safety response effort under the broad categories of public health, public safety, health care, and human services;
 - ii) those directly attributable to activities that prevent community spread in public spaces, including reconfiguration of office spaces and enhanced sanitation efforts.

- 5) Can this be used for personnel costs? Such as the hire of a social worker or counselor to address mental health problems that have increased as a result of COVID-19
 - See above eligibility rules.

- 6) We're seeing many municipalities use their ARPA funds to provide bonuses for staff who have worked throughout COVID - could this funding be used to provide bonuses to nonprofit staff who supported the community throughout the pandemic, much like the way municipalities are using ARPA funds to provide bonuses to their staff?
 - No, CRF has different rules for salaries and bonuses.

- 7) Are food and supplies at the meal site, that were not reimbursed by these grants since March 2020 applicable for this grant program.

- These would be eligible expenses if the food and supplies were related to necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) and not part of “normal operations”
 - Unbudgeted, i.e. were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act)
- 8) If we received PPP but are not requesting for salary would we be ok?
- If you have expenses that are not funded by the PPP grant or another federal funding source and they are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency – they are eligible expenses for this grant program.
- 9) From the DV world, bonuses to our court advocates is acceptable?
- See answer to Question #1.
- 10) As a non-profit arts organization, are contracted teacher payments eligible?
- No, education expenses are not eligible under this program.
- 11) Would salaries for telehealth clinical addiction consultations be covered?
- Generally yes if these costs were related to necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) and not part of “normal operations” and
- 12) Would increased hours being worked by our nurse for Covid-19 related purposes be fundable?
- Yes, see answer to Question #1.
- 13) Our childcare program lost revenue during closures, social distancing limits, etc. While we did receive PPP as an agency, I understood from finance that ran out for us over time. Are childcare costs for salary and for utilities (money we lost for revenue and costs expended for keeping staff whole after PPP ran out).eligible for grant?
- This grant can not be used to back fill lost revenue. It can be used for unbudgeted expenses were related to necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) and not part of “normal operations”, and these expenses were not budgeted.
- 14) We had to make significant technical infrastructure improvements (phone/internet servers), because of all the necessary remote and virtual work. Those costs were unbudgeted. Is that an eligible expense?
- Yes if these costs were related to necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) and not part of “normal operations”

15) How do we determine who qualifies as a direct service professional, in terms of bonuses?

- See Question #1

16) Can we apply for less than \$25,000?

- Yes

17) I am hoping for a little more clarification about what is and is not eligible for an educational institution

- It is easier to answer what is eligible for you to decide if your expenses fit.
- Eligible activity areas:
 - i) related to necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and not part of “normal operations”
 - ii) those directly attributed to addressing the public health and public safety response effort under the broad categories of public health, public safety, health care, and human services;
 - iii) those directly attributable to activities that prevent community spread in public spaces, including reconfiguration of office spaces and enhanced sanitation efforts.

18) Because of Covid we moved from center-based to home to community based programing and thus our transportation costs went through the roof. Can those increased expenses be covered by these funds?

- Yes, if those increased expenses are directly attributed to address the public health effort and to prevent community spread.

19) Can non-profit childcare staff hours be eligible if we needed to increase staffing due to DHS requirements to keep stable group sizes?

- See answer to Question 18.

20) Can you clarify - if we paid for things with existing funding that came from a non-federal charitable source, we can or cannot apply for funds to cover those expenses retroactively? From the RIF website “Program funds cannot be used for the following purposes:

Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed by any other source, including other federal, state, local, and charitable sources, such as the FEMA Public Assistance program, PPP, EIDL, Restore RI, RIDOH programs, or other state-sponsored COVID-19 relief programs”

- What you are referring to is known as supplanting which reduces previously allocated or appropriated funds by an agency for an activity, specifically because federal funds are available (or expected to be available) to fund the same activity. Any reduction in non-federal resources allocated for the same time period and the same purpose as the federal grant award will be subject to careful review and is not an eligible cost for this program.

- 21) Similar to the PPE question--we were considering purchasing gift cards as incentives for homeless clients to get vaccinated. As long as we base our proposal cost on our service numbers (not stockpiling), would that be eligible for purchase by Dec. 30th and use in 2022?
- Vaccine incentives are NOT an eligible use of CRF.
- 22) We have ongoing need for additional technology for remote work and virtual programming. Can the funds be used to purchase laptops/ipads for those purposes?
- Yes, if the purchase is related to necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and not part of "normal operations"
- 23) While bonuses are not eligible for non-health care workers, it would be great to know if reimbursement for overtime is an eligible expense (for instance, staff that reported over 40 hours/week on COVID-related work during the eligible period).
- Treasury Guidance provides that CRF may cover payroll and benefits of employees corresponding to time spent on administrative work necessary due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This includes, but is not limited to, costs related to disbursing payments from CRF funds and managing new grant programs established using CRF funds.
- 24) Is any equipment expenses allowed such as a pallet jack for a food pantry serving in the pandemic?
- Yes if the purchase is related to necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and not part of "normal operations"
- 25) To clarify - can funds be used for non-salaried workers?
- Yes if you fit the criteria as noted in answer to question #1.
- 26) If you used grant money received & organizational funds to purchase items during the year - is the full amount reimbursable or just the organizational funds?
- No. See answer to Question 20
- 27) IF we have other private funds from the RI Foundation we've been using to support COVID-related work, would it be preferred to request an extension on those private funds and use this funding instead for 2021 expenditures?
- This is a business decision and the answers to Questions 1 and 20 should be considered.
- 28) If we bought food gift cards for people and distributed them prior to 1-31-22, would those costs be eligible?

- The gift cards would have to be distributed on or before December 30, 2021.

29) Can you point us to a definition of 'front line health care worker' when it comes to bonuses/retention being eligible expenses?

Treasury does not have a definition of front line health care worker for the Cares Act. However, ARPA says "The term 'eligible workers' means those workers needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors as each chief executive officer of a metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county may designate as critical to protect the health and well-being of the residents H. R. 1319—230 of their metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government."

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30) Can you clarify under what conditions an educational institution would be eligible to receive a grant?

- If the expenses incurred are related to necessary expenditures due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and not part of "normal operations"

31) An organization rented out a space to provide childcare services during the pandemic – is the rent an eligible expense?

- Yes if the expense is related to necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and not part of "normal operations"