

EFSP Phase ARPA-R – Frequently Asked Questions

Posted 1/10/22

- 1. We noticed there is a new COVID question in the application. Are there any other changes?**
There is a new COVID question (III. 3b.) based on the Phase ARPA-R goal. There are other changes to the RFP that are outlined in the Competition Overview.
- 2. Will all households need to be impacted by COVID?**
We have not been notified if there are additional attestation required by EFSP National Board. ARPA-R is in response to COVID pandemic and to help rebuild the economy. We will keep you posted when more guidance is given.
- 3. What is the timeframe for Phase ARPA-R?**
Phase ARPA-R will be from November 1, 2021- April 23, 2023.
- 4. What are the funding categories for Phase ARPA-R?**
EFSP Phase ARPA-R includes funding for Other Food, Served Meals, Mass Shelter, Rent/Mortgage, and Utilities Assistance. You can apply for any mixture of those funding categories to supplement and expand your current programs, including food programs.
- 5. Would we be able to assist clients with Phase 39 and Phase ARPA-R?**
Yes. Both Phases will run concurrently.
- 6. How do we name the documents?**
Please follow the guidance from the Competition Overview (pg. 9) on how to save each file before submitting the application.
- 7. What reports are based on the bonus questions in the competition?**
The reports are the final quarterly workbooks that were due on November 10, 2021, to the EFSP Local Board.
- 8. Can a client receive multiple types of EFSP service during a single phase or can they only receive one type of assistance?**
Yes, clients may receive multiple types of EFSP service during a phase. They may receive both rent/mortgage assistance and utility assistance. There are also no restrictions on the number of times or frequency clients may receive mass shelter, served meals, and other food. However, they can only receive rent/mortgage and utility assistance once per phase.
- 9. Do you know how much money local board is going to receive?**
EFSP National Board has not released the jurisdiction awards at this time. EFSP National released that Phase ARPA-R national total will be 400 million dollars.
- 10. What should the percent be between non-EFSP funds and EFSP funds?**
EFSP goal is to supplement an existing program and not to create a new program or supplant existing funding for a program.

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11. Is it possible to listen to the recording of the December 15 RFP conference?

The Optional RFP Conference for Phase ARPA-R was not recorded.

12. How long is the Phase period?

The Phase period is from November 1st, 2021, through April 23rd, 2023.

13. How much is the meal allowance for served meals?

The per meal allowance increased to \$3 per meal for agencies using the per meal rate when providing congregate meals. Please review the guidance on the ACAM website.

14. Can EFSP funds cover counselling and job assistance?

No. Please review the EFSP Phase 35 Manual for allowable expenditures.

15. Can EFSP funds cover transportation services?

No. Please review the EFSP Phase 35 Manual for allowable expenditures.

16. Can EFSP funds cover mental health or emergency medical expenditures?

No. Please review the EFSP Phase 35 Manual for allowable expenditures.

17. Can EFSP funds cover households who have trouble paying for subsidized housing?

Please review the EFSP Phase 35 Manual for allowable expenditures. It may depend on the subsidy. Case by case questions can be sent if awarded.

18. Does ARPA-R Phase require a matching contribution?

EFSP does not require a match, but it requires that funds are not used to start a new program or to supplant existing funds. EFSP funds are to be used to enhance existing programs. Program may be asked to show overall capacity of existing programs relative to the EFSP funding. Please review the EFSP Phase 35 Manual and budget directions for more information.

19. Based on the possibility of paying more than one month of rent do we need to increase households served?

For clarification, LROs may now pay up to 90 days (3 months) for clients per phase if it is necessary to maintain housing. This means that rent cannot be paid in advance. The rent could cover the current month and two months of rental arrears. Please review the example in the Amended Competition Overview (pg. 4).

20. Does the Amended Program Level Budget ONLY applies to EFSP Phase ARPA-R?

Correct, the amendment to the RFP only applies to Phase ARPA-R. LROs awarded Phase 39 will be contacted with further information.

21. In the excel program level budget, for rent "units," it defines it as "bills paid." Should this be the number of months' rental bills paid including months of arrearage?

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Yes. The units for rent will be the number of months' rent paid for all households projected to be served including months of arrearage

22. If the changes do include Phase 39 and ARPA-R utilities, then we can assist client up to 3 months. Does this mean that if a client comes in January 1st for assistance with gas, lights, and water? Then we can assist that client in January, February, and March with all three bills? With the new three months rule for utilities and rent, expenditures can only cover arrears and the current month. No forward payments can be made.

23. For the application question 1b – Identify your experience with local and federal grant administration: i. Funding Amount, ii. Funding Source, iii. Activities & Service Units Funded, iv. Successes/Monitoring Issues/Findings, Provide history of use of HMIS or Comparable Database. Does this question refer to the current funding or past funding from local and federal sources? If from the past, then how far into the past should be provide the data from? Please describe your organization's experience with Local and Federal grants. This could be current or past experiences. Please note that there is a character count for each question.

24. If we are a Domestic Violence Shelter is HMIS required? If HMIS is required, what is the registration process, is there a registration deadline for new applicants & what is that date or time frame?
If your organization is a domestic violence shelter, then HMIS is not required.

25. When submitting the documents, does the applicant choose their own initials or will they be assigned by your agency? If the applicant chooses the initials, is there a naming convention your agency prefers? Same question for the LRO number, will your agency assign this for the first-time applicants?
Please review the Competition Overview on page 8 on how to name the documents for new organizations (number 2b).