
EFSP Phase 41 – Frequently Asked Questions

Posted 10/16/23

- 1. If we submitted an application last year for Phase 41, do we need to resubmit? Why do agencies have to resubmit an application?**

The National Board did not release the funds as expected and changes to the application required a reissue of the RFP.

- 2. Is there a maximum amount that can be spent on supplies for Other Food**

Please reference the Phase 35 Manual about Equipment and Consumable Supplies for Other Food category on page 66. On Page 63 of the Phase 35 Manual, it references the intent of the EFSP program.

- 3. The statement regarding the agency's requirement to provide service equal to one month's rent/mortgage at a minimum has us questioning the operational/service deliver impact of this requirement. Does this mean that for each household the agency is required to provide services, from non-EFSP funds, equal to one month's rent/mortgage, if additional resources are needed to eliminate the crisis EFSP funds can be used? Can you provide some additional clarification on this matter?**

Please see page 7 of the EFSP Local Board Handbook for more information:

[Rent/Mortgage Assistance Requirements](#)

Since EFSP assistance for Rent/Mortgage must guarantee that a client remains housed for an additional 30 days the Local Board requires all agencies awarded Rent/Mortgage Assistance to provide service equal to one month's rent/mortgage. To ensure adherence to this requirement, agencies must use EFSP funds exclusively to pay the full month's rent up to current Fair Market Rental (FMR) rate for the unit. (Do not factor in utilities when calculating FMR for this purpose.) Agencies may not combine EFSP funds with another funding source to meet the FMR requirement. However, agencies may provide one month's assistance in excess of FMR by using EFSP funds to pay the FMR portion and additional non-EFSP funds to pay the remaining balance. For the latest FMR, please visit https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2023_code/select_Geography.odn select Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX HUD Metro from the dropdown menu.

An LRO may use the one month's, two months', or three months' rent at the current FMR rates to estimate EFSP expenditures for rent. If paying for more than one month's rent per household, EFSP funds may be used for arrearage and the current month's rent (no forward payments). For example, if an LRO intends to provide service to 20 households (assuming larger households that require two-bedroom units), and the current FMR for a two-bedroom unit is \$1,307, the LRO may estimate the request at \$26,140 (20 households x \$1,307 x 1 month/ household), or \$52,280 (20 households x \$1,307 x 2 months/ households) or \$78,420 (20 households x \$1,307 x 3 months/households).

- 4. Will the Optional Conference be recorded?**

The optional conference will not be recorded.

- 5. Is the spending period a 12 month period? Will it be defined prior to the grant being due?**

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM

of Houston/Fort Bend and Harris Counties
and Waller County



EFSP National Board has not released the spending period for Phase 41 at this time.

6. Most of our clients rent is well below FMR. Do we have to use FMR when calculating the budget for rent category?

The FMR is the max to use for rent assistance. Please see page 7 of the Local Board Handbook for more information.

7. Regarding the financial information part of the budget. Instructions note that if we are in the first 3 quarters of our fiscal year, which we are, please provide the organization's full year projected financial information for the current fiscal year – which for us is FY'24. Does this mean we should attach our FY'24 budget along with our most recent audit? On the financials tab FY'21, FY'22 and FY'23 are our prior 3 years.

If FY 23, FY 22, and FY 21 are the prior years, then you may provide information for FY 22, FY 23 and FY 24. The Local Board is not requesting the FY'24 organization budget with the application.