WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS GRANT

Homelessness Research Institute National Alliance to End Homelessness

Updated: March 18, 2025

On January 21, the Alliance posted a Request for Proposals for homeless services workforce innovations projects, and has since received questions from potential applicants. Those questions and the associated responses are included in this document. If the Alliance receives additional questions, this document may further updated.

QUESTION: IS THERE A PRESCRIBED APPLICATION FORMAT REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT?

You can submit your responses via the <u>online submission form</u>. You can also put the questions listed in the RFP and your associated responses in a Word document or PDF file and forward them to <u>hri@naeh.org</u>. We will accept other formats, but there is a risk that we will be unable to easily read, view, or access your submission. In order for us to view video submissions, files will need to be uploaded to a hosting service (such as Google Drive or Dropbox) and have their links shared through the webform or email documents.

QUESTION: WILL THERE BE ANY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS GRANT?

Yes. If selected for the funding opportunity, the Alliance will require your organization/agency to report on various factors associated with project implementation and impact. We may also ask you to participate in a small-scale evaluations, such as employee or client surveys. Requirements may vary according to the nature of the project. The Alliance will discuss reporting and any other grant requirements with the selected organization/agency to ensure feasibility and avoid undue burden. These requirements will be included in the grant agreement.

QUESTION: WHAT CAN APPLICANTS EXPECT FROM THE INTERVIEW PROCESS?

If selected for an interview, your organization/agency will be asked to meet with one or more members of the Alliance staff via Zoom. Goals include learning more about your organization/ agency, community, employees, clients, and/or the details of the project. It is an opportunity for both the Alliance and the applicant to ask clarifying questions and develop a shared understanding of the potential use of funds.

Finally, at the time of their interview in April/May 2025, applicants may also be asked to present documents that support their applications—for example, evidence of expenditure/financial responsibility (e.g., annual expenditure reports).

Applicants selected for an award will be notified in May 2025.

QUESTION: IS THERE AN ANTICIPATED GRANT TERM FOR A SELECTED PROJECT?

Projects can vary in length but should take no longer than two years to fully implement.

QUESTION: GIVEN RECENT CONCERNS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND ACROSS THE NATION ABOUT THE STATE OF FEDERAL FUNDING, IS THIS GRANT STILL AN AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY?

This grant is not being made with any federal funds, and is not impacted by funding-related decisions made by any federal government agencies or officials. This opportunity continues to be available, and the Request for Proposal can be found here (insert link).

QUESTION: IS MY ORGANIZATION ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANT? CAN WE MEET WITH THE ALLIANCE BEFORE SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL?

Only 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and local/state government agencies are eligible to apply.

To answer common questions, the Alliance will be holding a webinar on March 26 at 10:00 am (PST)/1:00 pm (EST). Individuals can register via the <u>this link</u>.

However, due to the level of interest in this opportunity, Alliance staff is unable to meet individually with applicants before they make a submission. Our simplified application process was designed to avoid the common scenario of pouring hours and hours of work into writing an application and gathering documents only to be later rejected.

The criteria are flexible, but please note the following aspects:

- **Service Population.** At minimum, roughly one-third of the people your organization reaches should be people experiencing homelessness. The remainder of your service population should be other low-income people (some of whom may be at risk of homelessness).
- **Sub-sector Eligibility.** Organizations/agencies may be involved in significant sub-sectors of homeless services (e.g., a shelter or supportive housing program). However, applicants for this opportunity can also be involved in smaller sub-sectors, such as medical outreach or data analysis.
- **Program Type.** Applicants can be direct service providers, but that is not a requirement. If your organization/agency is not a direct services provider, its connections to efforts to end homelessness should be clearly communicated.

QUESTION: HOW MANY GRANTS WILL BE AWARDED, AND/OR HOW MUCH FUNDING WILL BE DISPERSED?

The cap for an individual awardee is \$50,000. Since applicants will be requesting a variety of different sums up to this amount (i.e., some less than \$50,000), we cannot predict at this time how many grants will be awarded.

QUESTION: DO APPLICANTS HAVE TO PUT FORTH A SINGLE ACTIVITY, OR WOULD IT BE ACCEPTABLE TO PROPOSE MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES THAT AD-DRESS RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, ETC.?

Applicants can propose either a single activity or multiple activities. However, we will only accept one application per organization.

QUESTION: ARE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND FOR-PROFIT ORGANI-ZATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANT?

Only 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and local/state government agencies are eligible to apply. For-profit entities are not eligible for this opportunity.