

FACT SHEET

SPECIAL GUIDANCE FOR RENEWAL SAFE HAVENS

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Among other changes, the HEARTH Act repealed the “Safe Havens for Homeless Individuals Demonstration Program.” This means that HUD will not fund any new safe haven projects under the CoC Program.

However, HUD will continue to renew funding for an existing safe haven project as long as:

- The project continues to operate within the scope of the grant in effect on August 30, 2012, such as serving the same population and number of persons or units in the same type of housing, within the constraints of the budgeted costs;
- The project remains in compliance with the safe haven definition and all regulatory requirements in place on August 29, 2012, the last effective date of the prior Supportive Housing Program regulations; and
- The CoC includes the Safe Haven project on the Priority Listing.

If a recipient substantially amends a grant for a safe haven project after August 30, 2012, the project must comply with all applicable CoC Program regulations and will be limited to apply for renewal funding under an eligible program component, such as transitional housing or permanent housing.

This fact sheet highlights the parts of the CoC Program interim rule most relevant to safe haven projects.

DEFINITION OF SAFE HAVENS

Safe Haven, as defined in the Supportive Housing Program, is a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.

To continue to be renewed as a Safe Haven, the project:

- Must be located in a facility, meaning a structure, or structures, or clearly identifiable portion of a structure or structures;
- Must allow 24-hour residence for an unspecified duration;
- Must have private or semi-private accommodations;
- Must limit overnight occupancy to no more than 25 persons;
- Must prohibit the use of illegal drugs in the facility;
- Must provide access to needed services in a low demand facility, but cannot require program participants to utilize them; and
- May include a drop-in center as part of outreach activities.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS FOR SAFE HAVENS

Safe haven projects as defined are for *literally homeless* individuals (as defined in the CoC Program interim rule in paragraph (1)(i) and (1)(iii) who reside on the streets or places not meant for human habitation and who have severe and persistent mental illness.

ELIGIBLE COSTS FOR SAFE HAVENS

Safe haven projects may be renewed for the same costs budgeted in the prior grant. [Note that a budget change of more than ten percent requires a substantial amendment of the grant, which

will trigger compliance with all requirements of the CoC Program interim rule.] Under the CoC Program, the eligible costs can be spent on the following expenses, which are each more thoroughly described in Subpart D of the CoC Program interim rule.

Leasing

Grant funds may be used to pay the costs of leasing a structure or structures, or portions of structures, to provide housing or social services. Leasing funds may not be used to lease structures owned by the recipient, subrecipient, their parent organizations, other related organizations, or a partnership in which any of these organizations are members.

Supportive Services

Grant funds may be used to pay the eligible costs of supportive services that address the special needs of program participants in safe havens. Supportive services must be needed to assist program participants in obtaining and maintaining housing.

Operating Costs

Grant funds may be used to pay the costs of day-to-day operations of a safe haven. Eligible costs include maintenance and repair, reserve for replacement of systems, building security, utilities, furniture, and equipment.

Project Administrative Costs

Grants funds may be used for project administration related to the general management and oversight of the CoC grant. Administrative costs include only the costs associated with the grant management, not the costs associated with program management.

Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)

Grants funds may be used to pay costs associated with contributing data to the HMIS designated by the CoC.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFE HAVENS

The recipient must match no less than 25 percent of the grant amount, less the amount requested for leasing, with cash or in-kind contributions from other sources. For in-kind contributions, the grantee may use the value of any real property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the project as match, provided that, if the match had to be paid for with grant funds, the costs would have been eligible.

Grant Administration Requirements

The grant administration requirements will remain the same, including:

- Drawing down funds in LOCCS
- Completing the Annual Performance Report
- Applying for renewal funds through the competitive grant process
- Complying with grant management and recordkeeping requirements

Additional Information

More information on safe havens is available on the [OneCPD Resource Exchange](#).