

# Using HOPWA Program Funds for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

March 19, 2020

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) grantees may use HOPWA funds for a range of eligible activities to prepare for and respond to infectious diseases such as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The following chart includes examples of eligible HOPWA activities to support infectious disease preparedness and response.

Activity Type	Description
<b>Administrative Costs</b>	Creating a disaster response plan for the local HOPWA program to ensure access to housing and services for eligible households during crises.
<b>Resource Identification</b>	Assessing and implementing modifications to workflow and program design in response to infectious diseases such as COVID-19 that may impact eligible household access to housing and services.
	Conducting local assessment and planning activities to ensure grantees and project sponsors are prepared to respond rapidly and effectively to emergencies and infectious disease outbreaks in their programs.
	Coordinating with Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) recipients which can be well positioned to play an important role in delivering medical care and supportive services to HOPWA-eligible individuals and assisting local communities during infectious disease outbreaks.
<b>Supportive Services</b>	Assisting HOPWA eligible households in accessing essential services and supplies such as food, water, medications, medical care, transportation, and information. Providing nutrition services in the form of food banks or meal deliveries. Educating assisted households on ways to reduce the risk of getting sick or spreading infectious diseases such as COVID-19 to others. Unless otherwise waived, grantees and project sponsors are subject to the HOPWA regulatory requirement that payments for health or medical services may only be made as a last resort.
<b>Leasing</b>	Costs for short-term hotel/motel stays for clients are eligible under the leasing line item. Hotel/motel stays are limited to no more than 60 days in a six-month period. Hotel/motel rooms can be used as quarantine space for eligible clients who may have been exposed to infectious diseases such as COVID-19.
<b>Operating Costs for Housing Facilities</b>	Essential furnishings, maintenance, equipment, and supplies that support the operation of housing facilities. Eligible supplies include cleaning and disinfection supplies. Unless otherwise waived, medical supplies such as gloves and masks may be purchased subject to the regulatory requirement that payments for health services for any items or service may only be made as a last resort.

## Planning Considerations

- HOPWA grantees should review their available grant balances. Grantees often do not have fully expended grants. There may be unspent resources that could be used for activities related to infectious disease preparedness and response.

- HOPWA formula grantees must amend their Consolidated Annual Action Plan when there is a change to the allocation priorities or method of distribution of funds; an addition of an activity not described in the plan; or a change to the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity. If the changes meet the criteria for a “substantial amendment” in the grantee’s citizen participation plan, the grantee must follow its citizen participation process for amendments.
- HOPWA competitive renewal grantees must amend their grant when there is a change to budget line item amounts, outputs, or objectives of the grant. All amendments to renewal grants are coordinated through local HUD field offices.

### Related Resources

Infectious Disease Prevention and Response page on the HUD Exchange

Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs provides guidance to Continuum of Care (CoC) recipients for planning and responding to infectious diseases. Although this resource is geared to CoCs, it contains relevant information for HOPWA grantees and project sponsors.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coronavirus (COVID-19) webpage

### Ask A Question

Submit your questions to the Ask A Question (AAQ) portal. In Step 2 of the question submission process, select “HOPWA- Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS” from the “My question is related to” drop down list and write “Health Preparedness and Response” in the subject line.

### Stay Informed

All guidance for HOPWA grantees and project sponsors related to infectious disease preparedness and response and COVID-19 will be sent to the HOPWA Mailing List. To subscribe, enter the requested contact information, select “HOPWA – Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS” then select Subscribe.

**The contents of this document, except when based on statutory or regulatory authority or law, do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.**