

CFWYI 2021 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

American Rescue Plan Supplemental Funding

(2021 FVPSA ARP)

Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Question: Who is eligible to apply for FVPSA ARP funds administered through Council for Women and Youth Involvement?**

Supplemental funding is only available to current CFWYI FVPSA sub-recipients. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 10407(a)(2)(B)(iii), these existing sub-recipients do the following:

- have the operation of shelters for victims of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence, and their dependents as their primary purpose; or
- provide counseling, advocacy, and self-help services to victims of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence, and their dependents.

**2. Question: What is the purpose of the FVPSA ARP funds?**

The purpose of the FVPSA ARP funds is to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. While applicants have the flexibility to determine which services best support the needs of children and families experiencing family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence **all line items within an application's budget must be clearly linked to COVID-19 prevention, preparation and response.**

**3. Question: What is the length of funding for the FVPSA ARP funds?**

Applicants may apply for funding, operating from December 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023. Retroactive pre-award costs that occurred from March 15, 2021, are allowed.

**4. Question: Does the FVPSA ARP grant program require a match contribution?**

No, match is not required for this funding program.

**5. Question: Has CFWYI set a cap on the number of funds that can be requested?**

Yes, CFWYI has set a maximum dollar amount that applicants can request. Currently, applications and projects up to \$150,000 are being considered; however, it is expected that budgets reflect reasonable and allowable costs and can be expended within the project periods. CFWYI-FVPSA expects to distribute just over \$3.6 million to subgrantees through the FVPSA ARP supplemental funding program, depending on the number of applications received and the availability. The opportunity to request additional funding after the initial request will be based on funding availability.

**6. Question: Does current use of funds language in FVPSA include basic needs?**

Yes, per 42 U.S.C. § 10408(b), FVPSA funds can be used to support the operation and administration of shelter and supportive services, including, but not limited to:

- Staffing
- Shelter utilities
- Food and toiletries for shelter
- Rental costs of the shelter facility
- Supplies for the shelter

- Including supplies for survivors entering shelter such as:
  - Clothing
  - Toiletries, etc.\*
- Transportation (includes vehicle purchases/leases) (refer to question 17)
- Developing safety plans
- Individual and group counseling and peer support groups
- Training, technical assistance, prevention, and outreach to increase awareness of domestic violence and dating violence
- Services for children exposed to domestic violence
- Advocacy, case management services, and information and referral services

\*Furniture costs to support the operation and administration of shelter and supportive services are allowable expenses as long as justification is linked to COVID-19 prevention, preparation and response.

### **7. Question: What is the definition of shelter?**

The definition of Shelter in FVPSA Regulations at [45 CFR §1370.2](#) includes the provision of temporary refuge in conjunction with supportive services in compliance with applicable State or Tribal law or regulations and includes:

- Emergency and immediate shelter
- Housing provision
- Rental Subsidies
- Temporary refuge or lodging in individual units such as apartments
  - Not required to be owned, operated, or leased by the program
- Safe homes
- Hotel or motel vouchers
- Must also provide comprehensive supportive services and may include meals
- Only making a referral to shelter does not count as the provision of shelter
- Temporary refuge is not transitional or permanent housing

While Rental subsidies are included in the definition, per [42 U.S.C. § 10408\(d\)](#), FVPSA funds may not be used as a direct payment to any victim, thus the shelter program would have to pay the cost of rent directly to the landlord.

### **8. Question: Can FVPSA ARP funds be paid directly to victims?**

No, funds cannot be paid directly to victims.

### **9. Question: Can applicants request funding in support of rental assistance?**

While Rental subsidies are included in the definition, per [42 U.S.C. § 10408\(d\)](#), FVPSA funds may not be used as a direct payment to any victim, thus the shelter program would have to pay the cost of rent directly to the landlord. CFWYI will only approve FVPSA ARP funds to be used to pay the first month's rent and a security deposit.

### **10. Question: To reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 can we use funds in support of renovation and construction for our facility?**

No, FVPSA ARP funds cannot be used for renovation or construction. This includes even seemingly minor renovations like painting or replacing carpet.

**11. Question: Can we use FVPSA ARP funds in support of facility maintenance costs?**

Yes, funds can be used in support of minor maintenance up-keep costs as long as it cannot be interpreted as being equal to renovation or construction.

**12. Question: Can we use FVPSA ARP funds to support hiring personnel?**

Yes, funds can be used to hire personnel as long as justification is clearly linked to COVID 19 prevention, preparation, and response efforts.

**13. Question: Can funds be requested to support hazard/pandemic pay for personnel?**

Yes, hazard/pandemic pay for personnel can be requested; however, CFWYI has set a limit. A one-time payment of \$500 per position is allowable for the project period. Only staff who work directly with survivors and in positions in the FVPSA budget are eligible for hazard/pandemic pay funded by FVPSA. Subgrantee must have a hazard/pandemic pay policy on file with CFWYI-FVPSA. The policy should be approved by the board and submitted with the application for funding.

**14. Question: Can funds be used to implement remote and technology-related services such as text and web chat?**

Yes, adding text and web chat systems to increase the ways survivors can request help are allowable expenses.

**15. Question: Can funds be used for equipment purchases such as desktop computers and laptops?**

Yes, funds can be used in support of equipment purchases as long as the purchase is clearly linked to COVID-19 prevention, preparation and response. CFWYI has capped the purchase of desktop computers and laptops at a maximum of \$1,000 each. If software/hardware and/or other components are needed, they must be listed as separate line items.

**16. Question: Can funds be used in support of travel and mileage reimbursements?**

Yes, funds can be used to reimburse travel and mileage; however, applicants must ensure that reimbursement costs follow the rate guidance below:

- Lodging and meal per diem rates cannot exceed the rates set by the Federal Government Services Administration. The rates can be found at <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>.
- Mileage rates cannot exceed the rates set by State of North Carolina Budget Management. These rates can be found at: <https://www.osbm.nc.gov/budget/budget-manual#Sect51>

Applicants must have a travel policy on file and be available for CFWYI review.

**17. Question: Can funds be used to purchase vehicles?**

Yes, CFWYI will approve requests to purchase/lease vehicles but advance approval is required.

**18. Question: Does the FVPSA ARP application require objectives?**

Yes, CFWYI has developed a streamlined application process. Applicants will be required to complete a project request which includes a:

- brief narrative on the scope of work
- Goals and objectives
- Evaluation process

**19. Question: Will we be required to submit a progress report if we receive an award through the FVPSA ARP supplemental funding program?**

Yes, any agency receiving an award through the FVPSA ARP supplemental funding program is required to submit progress reports. CFWYI will provide updated reporting requirements during the award and contract process.