

Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program Request for Applications Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The FAQs in this document were updated on 1/7/2021 beginning with question 14.

- 1) What is the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program?**
The California CESF Program provides emergency federal funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus with a focus on meeting the CESF re-entry related needs of individuals.
- 2) What does re-entry mean in the CESF Request for Applications (RFA)?**
For the purpose of this RFA, re-entry is defined as release from a custodial setting (e.g. jail, prison, etc.) back into the community (CESF Proposal Instructions Packet, Page 28).
- 3) Must CESF be used solely for re-entry?**
No. However, applicants are asked to describe how their proposed approach will meet the re-entry related needs of individuals.
- 4) Can CESF be spent on juvenile justice populations in detention centers?**
Yes. CESF may be spent on juvenile justice populations in detention centers if the funds are used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.
- 5) Can counties allocate CESF to support further testing of detained juveniles for COVID-19?**
Yes.
- 6) Can a portion/percentage of the CESF allotment be used to manage the local project?**
Yes. However, the intent of the CESF program is to allocate the maximum amount of funding to efforts that prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.
- 7) Can Counties claim indirect cost?**
Yes. Counties may use their federally approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (derived from a federal formula) to seek reimbursement for indirect costs **OR** counties without a federally approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate may use the Federal De Minimis (10% of Modified Total Direct Cost) to seek reimbursement for indirect costs. Please refer to the BSCC Grant Administration Guide for additional information: http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_correctionsplanningandprograms/

8) Does the CESF Program have a match requirement?

No.

9) How is supplanting defined?

Supplanting is the deliberate reduction in the amount of federal, state, or local funds being appropriated to an existing program or activity because grant funds have been awarded for the same purposes. Supplanting is strictly prohibited for all BSCC grants. The CESF Program shall be used to support new program activities or to augment or expand existing program activities but shall not be used to replace existing funds. When using outside funds as match, applicants must be careful not to supplant. It is the responsibility of the grantee to ensure that supplanting does not occur. The grantee must keep clear and detailed financial records to show that grant funds are used only for allowable costs and activities (CESF Proposal Instructions Packet, Page 5).

10) Who develops the CESF Local Advisory Committee?

Counties must form a CESF Local Advisory Committee that includes stakeholders who have experience and expertise in the prospective programs and/or services to be implemented by the proposal. At a minimum the CESF Local Advisory Committee should include representatives from non-governmental community-based organizations, Tribes, and cities within the county that are impacted by the proposal (CESF Proposal Instructions Packet, Page 5).

11) Does the CESF Local Advisory Committee have a say in the minimum 20% pass-through to non-governmental community-based organization and the 80% the county retains to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus?

Yes. The CESF Local Advisory Committee is responsible for the development, implementation, and oversight of the funded project. This includes the pass-through funding and the funding retained by the county.

12) Where do I find more information concerning Evidence-Informed Principles?

The following websites are provided as informational resources. Inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement by the BSCC.

- National Criminal Justice Association - www.ncja.org
- Crime Solutions - www.crimesolutions.gov
- Bureau of Justice Assistance - www.bja.gov

13) Where can I find additional information on the CESF program?

Please visit the BSCC website at www.bscc.ca.gov.

14) Can community-based organizations apply for this directly? Or would we apply to our county when they release an RFP?

Applicants to the CESF program are limited to California counties. However, each county is required to pass-through at least 20 percent of the CESF award to non-governmental community-based organization(s) impacted by coronavirus and providing services in the county (CESF Proposal Instructions Packet, Page 5). Please contact your county for information regarding the local process.

- 15) In reviewing the proposal instructions, it appears Humboldt County is eligible for \$146,830.64 in CESF. Can you confirm that amount is correct?**
Yes, Humboldt County is eligible for \$146,830.64 in funding (CESF Proposal Instructions Packet, Page 3).
- 16) Can any of the CESF be used for the administration and management of the Grant?**
Yes. Please see the response to question six.
- 17) Can overtime be paid to accountants for developing and monitoring the budget?**
Yes, if there is a nexus to the CESF program. Please ensure all expenditures meet state and federal requirements as described in the U.S. Department of Justice [Financial Guide](#) and the [BSCC Grant Administration Guide](#).
- 18) Do all allowable activities (Overtime, Equipment, travel etc.) have to support the Proposal Narrative and be used to accomplish the stated goals and objectives?**
Yes.
- 19) Is the 20% a minimum or a fixed amount. If we wanted to pass on more than 20%, can we?**
The minimum pass-through amount to non-governmental community-based organization(s) is 20%, however counties may pass-through more than 20%.
- 20) Is the grant money to be provided to the Non-Governmental Organization as a reimbursement of their actual costs or as a block grant?**
The determination of how the local CESF project is administered is a local decision to be determined by each of the counties.
- 21) Does the work we pay the Non-Governmental Organization for have to support the Proposal Narrative and the accomplishment of our stated goals and objectives?**
Yes.
- 22) It appears that you want us to include the names of the Non-Governmental Organizations that we will be funding in the application. Since CFR 200 and our county policy require a competitive solicitation to expend the funds, we would not be able to provide the names until after grant award. Is this acceptable?**
Yes. Counties may provide the names of the selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) once known. As part of the application submission, please submit a signed Appendix C (Criteria for Non-Governmental Organizations Receiving CESF). On the form, indicate that NGOs have not been selected. Once known, submit an updated Appendix C document to the BSCC. Please repeat this process anytime a new NGO is added.
- 23) Los Angeles County has five Board Supervisors, does the Governing Board Resolution need to be submitted by one board office?**

The Governing Board Resolution must be passed, approved, and adopted by the full Board.

24) Does the Board of Supervisors or Chief County Administrative Officer sign off on the CESF application? Does that apply to just the resolution or the whole application? If not, does the county have the discretion to choose who signs off on our application?

Applications can be submitted by the Board of Supervisors or the Chief County Administrative Officer (CESF Proposal Instructions Packet, Page 2). Grantee's must either (1) submit a resolution from its Governing Board that delegates authority to the individual authorized to execute the grant agreement or (2) provide sufficient documentation indicating that the prospective grantee has been vested with plenary authority to execute grant agreements (e.g. County Board of Supervisors delegating such authority to an Agency head). The county should follow any local policies that describe when approval from the Board of Supervisors or the Chief County Administrative Officer is required.

25) Can CESF funds be used for expenses we are occurring now?

No. CESF expenditures must occur between the grant period of March 31, 2021 to January 31, 2022.

26) Is there an evaluation component with the local CESF project?

No. The CESF program does not require an evaluation.

27) Can CESF funding be used to pay for temporary housing for the reentry population?

Yes, CESF may be used to pay for temporary housing if there is a nexus to preventing, preparing for and responding to the Coronavirus.

28) Are Non-Governmental Organizations required to have a business license or Employer Identification Number in order to receive CESF?

Yes.