

City of Arlington
HPRP Public Hearing
April 16, 2009
Summary of Questions and Comments

Attendees: Beck Orander (Arlington Life Shelter), Marcela Nova (All Church Home), Debbie Musgrave (Mission Metroplex)

Introduction to the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (see attached power point presentation)

Questions about HPRP:

1. *Does legal status matter for program participants? **Response below is directly from the HUD Homeless Resource website:***

Response: In accordance with Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, an alien (a person who is not a U.S. citizen or national) may be eligible for assistance under HPRP only if he or she is a “qualified alien” (defined in 8 U.S.C. 1641). This means that no entity that receives funds under HPRP may knowingly provide HPRP assistance to an alien who is not a qualified alien.

The law also requires all state and local governments that directly administer HPRP assistance to first verify that an alien is a qualified alien before using HPRP funds to assist him or her. Nonprofit organizations that administer HPRP assistance are not required, but may, verify that an alien is a qualified alien in order to provide him or her with HPRP assistance. However, if a nonprofit organization pursues verification, it must follow the requirements set forth in the interim guidance published by the Department of Justice.

For more information on these requirements, as well as a discussion of applicable nondiscrimination requirements, see the “Interim Guidance on Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien Status and Eligibility under Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,” 63 Fed. Reg. 61344 (Nov. 17, 1997), available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/advanced.html> (Select 1997 Federal Register and search for page 61344. Scroll down through the list provided to find “Interim Guidance of Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien.”)

2. *Can subrecipients receive funds up front or will they be reimbursed for eligible costs?*

Response: HPRP Grantees (e.g., Cities and Counties) may receive funds in advance; however, subrecipients will be reimbursed by the City for eligible costs.

3. *Must participants live in Arlington?*

Response: Yes. Individuals receiving HPRP assistance through the City of Arlington must reside within the City limits at the time of assistance.

4. *Can funds be used to pay for mortgages and utilities for homeowners? **Response below is directly from the HUD Homeless Resource website:***

Question: Can funding help me with my mortgage payments?

Response: No, HPRP is not a mortgage assistance program. However, homeowners who meet HPRP eligibility criteria may receive utilities assistance and moving cost assistance (i.e. after foreclosure), as well as services needed to help them stay housed. These might include case management, credit counseling, housing search, and legal services not related to a mortgage.

5. *Is there a match requirement for the funds?*

Response: There is no match requirement for HPRP

6. *Will recipients be required to enter data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)?*

Response: Yes

7. *How do you determine who is considered at risk of homelessness?*

Response: HUD provides a non-exhaustive list of sample risk factors to assist with the assessment of at-risk status. These risk factors may include, but are not limited to: imminent eviction from housing (i.e. within 2 weeks); imminent discharge (2 weeks) from an institution such as a prison, hospital, or mental health institution of which the person was a resident for more than 180 days; housing condemned; sudden and significant loss of income; sudden and significant increase of utility costs; mental or physical health problems and/or expenses; severe housing cost burden; recent homelessness (past 12 months); credit problems; extremely low income (below 30% AMI); and young head of household (under 25 with children).

8. *Is employment training considered an eligible activity?*

Response: No. Only activities related to housing costs are considered eligible activities.

9. *How will funds be distributed among applicants?*

Response: A competitive RFP process will be used in which all applicants will be evaluated by a grant review committee. The Community and Neighborhood Development Committee and City Council will then review the funding recommendations made by the review committee.

10. *Can you apply for both City and County HPRP funds?*

Response: Yes. The two processes are distinct from one another. In fact, Tarrant County's RFP is currently open if you would like to submit a proposal.

Comments about HPRP:

1. Request that points be awarded to applicants that demonstrate effective collaboration in the Request for Proposals (RFP).
2. Request simplified format for RFP
3. Request similar forms from program to program (i.e., Tarrant County, Fort Worth, and Arlington)
4. Request that HMIS be the format for HPRP formatting to reduce data entry requirements.