

EVICTION PREVENTION RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (E-PRAP) RFA

RFA DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1277 was part of legislation passed in 2021 requiring an additional surcharge of \$100 collected by a county auditor for each qualifying housing related document recorded. These funds will be utilized to prevent evictions by providing resources to households in Clark County. The WA State Department of Commerce has awarded grant funds to Clark County Community Services as the overseeing entity.

The purpose of this Request for Application (RFA) is to solicit programs that provide targeted prevention services for Clark County residents most likely to become homeless or to suffer severe health consequences, or both, after an eviction while prioritizing households disproportionately impacted by public health emergencies, homelessness, and housing instability. The programs should work within the framework of the Clark County Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) toward preventing and ending homelessness in Clark County in alignment with the Clark County Homeless Action Plan 2019-2022.

AREAS OF NEED

Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance

Homelessness Prevention helps households who earn less than 80% of the area median income and who are at risk of homelessness to maintain stable housing and avoid homelessness. Services include rent payments and other housing cost assistance, program operations and flexible funding costs and administrative costs of the eligible organization.

Programs that provide eviction prevention rental assistance must use targeted prevention, an evidence-based process to prioritize households most likely to become homeless, suffer severe health consequences after eviction, and those disproportionately impacted by housing instability. Prevention connects people with the care and support needed to maintain their housing and achieve a better quality of life. Households will be strategically prioritized for participating organizations, based on a standardized, evidence-based assessment that identifies households who are at highest risk of becoming homeless. All programs must follow the Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) / System Demonstration Grant (SDG) guidelines. A copy will be provided in the library for review.

Clark County is committed to working with organizations rooted in communities of color to assist and serve marginalized populations within their communities. Organizations that meet the By and For Organization definition will be prioritized for funding if all other criteria are met.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

Clark County anticipates allocating approximately \$4.3 million for each of the next two fiscal years (24/25). Funding amounts are approximate and subject to change. The minimum request

for these funds is \$100,000 per calendar year. Carryover of unspent funds from the first contract year is allowed.

At least 10 percent of the total award will be subgranted to organizations that serve and are substantially governed by marginalized populations (By and For organizations). Marginalized communities may include ethnic and racial minorities; immigrants and refugees; individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender; individuals with disabilities or who are deaf; and Native Americans.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications must be submitted through Bonfire. The application process is as follows:

1. Full applications must be completed by the end of the day July 21, 2023.
2. County staff will review all applications and may ask applicant for additional information about the proposed program or the agency. All correspondence will be conducted through Bonfire.
3. A subcommittee of the Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) will start reviewing applications once all clarifying questions have been answered.
4. Application recommendations will be made by the CAAB subcommittee after all applications have been reviewed and scored. Applications are scored on a 100-point scale including both objectively scored components completed by county staff and subjectively scored questions completed by the CAAB subcommittee.
5. County Councilors will make final program application funding decisions in September 2023.
6. County staff will work with awarded programs to draft contracts to begin October 1, 2023.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All proposals submitted in response to this RFA must follow the below general requirements. All applicable requirements will be incorporated into performance contracts of selected proposals.

Applications submitted in response to this RFA agree to:

- The contract period will start October 1, 2023, and continue through June 30, 2025. Amount requested should be an annual amount.
- Contract performance will take place in Clark County.
- Follow all requirements in the Clark County Community Services General Terms and Conditions located at <https://clark.wa.gov/community-services/announcements-and-general-terms-and-conditions>.
- Follow all requirements in the WA Department of Commerce SDG Guidelines for prevention assistance programs.
- Programs must serve households referred to them for service by Council For The Homeless. These households will be strategically prioritized for participating organizations, based on a standardized, evidence-based assessment that identifies households who are at highest risk of becoming homeless.

- Contracts will be cost reimbursement. All goods and services must be received, and costs must be paid by the contractor before being invoiced to the county.
- Administrative costs will be reimbursed at the rate program costs are invoiced and will not exceed the budget set by the County. Program costs include rent payments and other housing costs, program operations and flexible funding costs.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions regarding this RFA must be submitted through the Opportunity Q&A in Bonfire. Responses will be posted within two business days. Deadline to submit questions is July 14, 2023.

GRIEVANCE PROCESS

If an applicant has a grievance about the outcome of their application through this request for application, they are encouraged to discuss their concerns with Clark County Community Services Program Manager Michael Torres at Michael.torres@clark.wa.gov. If this discussion does not result in a satisfactory outcome, the applicant may request the grievance be considered by Clark County Community Services Director, Vanessa Gaston who has final decision in all grievances.

I have read and understand the above request for application requirements and restrictions.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____