Policy and Practice Guidance Document #008
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021:
Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services – Supplemental Funding
April 30, 2021

Background

On December 27, 2020, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, allowing for the establishment of the “Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021: Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services to Respond to COVID-19” by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). This grant provides funding to enhance and improve Adult Protective Services (APS) provided by state and local governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and provides one-time funding for APS services totaling $93,880,000 across all 50 US states and territories. The project period for these awards is to be 18-months, with a start date of April 1, 2021, and an end date of September 30, 2022.

Awards are provided to the agency or unit of state government having the legal responsibility for providing adult protective services within the state (i.e., the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)). Funds received under this grant are intended to supplement, not replace, existing funding for APS that is currently provided by states and local government. Existing funds for an existing project or activities may not be displaced by federal funds and reallocated for other organizational expenses. The funding through this opportunity must add to current funding levels, not be used to replace funding.

There is no required match for the funding, and it will be distributed to the county Departments of Job and Family Services (CDJFS) equally. All funds must be spent in ways consistent with the Elder Justice Act Section 2042(b), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, and guidance provided by ACL and ODJFS.

This document provides practice and policy guidance regarding how funding can be used by the CDJFS.

Procedures

Activity Plan

To ensure that Ohio adheres to grant guidelines, each CDJFS is requested to provide a written activity plan to ODJFS regarding how funds are anticipated to be spent. The plan should also include the name of a person who can be contacted regarding the use of grant funds, a list of items and/or projects the CDJFS plans to spend the funds, and an initial description of how the funds will impact APS in the county. Because this is emergency one-time funding, the CDJFS should...
plan accordingly. There are also special considerations and approvals for individual purchases over $5,000.00 which must be discussed with and approved by ODJFS APS staff.

The plan can be completed on the attached form. Questions regarding the plan can be directed to Heidi Turner-Stone, ODJFS/OFC/APS Section Chief at Heidi.Turner@jfs.ohio.gov.

Use of Funds
ODJFS will partner with the Office of Fiscal and Monitoring Services to allocate Ohio’s grant funds to county agencies using the current allocation methodology used for providing state APS funding. Grant funds will be distributed equally to each CDJFS; each county will receive the same amount of funding regardless of the size of its population. Grant activities must be completed by the CDJFS within the project period timeframe (i.e., spent, have an expense incurred against it, and/or be obligated) by September 30, 2022.

ACL requires that funds be expended on APS activities related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency. Listed below are examples of how these funds can be used that would be responsive to those requirements.

- Improving and supporting remote work, such as the purchase of communications and technology hardware, software, or infrastructure;
- Costs associated with establishing new or improving existing processes for responding to alleged scams and frauds, especially those related to COVID–19 vaccine or cure scams;
- Costs associated with providing goods and services to APS clients related to COVID–19;
- Acquiring personal protection equipment and supplies;
- Paying for staffing activities, hiring temporary staff, and associated personnel costs;
- Training costs related to COVID–19;
- Funds for travel related to or required by COVID–19;
- Costs for and associated with community outreach, including advertising, postage, and printing of brochures and similar educational materials; and,
- Costs for and associated with assisting APS clients secure the least restrictive option for emergency or alternative housing, and with obtaining, providing, or coordinating with care transitions as appropriate.

Reporting
The ODJFS Federal Reporting Unit will provide financial reports semi-annually to ACL based on the actual monies spent by each county.

The ODJFS APS Section will be required to provide programmatic reports to ACL annually. CDJFSs will be requested to provide updates to ODJFS every six months so that progress can be monitored, and information provided to ACL. The reporting format for CDJFSs to use in providing updates to ODJFS will be developed once the grant project period begins and will be communicated to counties once it is completed.

Contacts
- Adult Protective Services – Tia Goodlett, Tia.Goodlett@jfs.ohio.gov; or Heidi Turner-Stone, Heidi.Turner@jfs.ohio.gov.
- Office of Families and Children’s APS Mailbox, APS_Mailbox@jfs.ohio.gov.
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
Office of Families and Children  
Adult Protection Services

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April 30, 2021

County Department of Job and Family Services APS Supplemental Funding Activity Plan

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<th>Anticipated use of grant funds:</th>
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<th>How the use of grant funds will impact APS in the county:</th>
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For questions, and to submit the County Plan, email Heidi Turner-Stone at Heidi.Turner@jfs.ohio.gov.