

Student Questions

Q: My concern and question is this: in situations where approved private schools are actively serving homeless youth but local SAUs are unwilling to collaborate or partner, is there any pathway for organizations like ours to participate in or access support through this program? Or are students enrolled in approved private schools effectively excluded unless a district chooses to partner?

A: This program was intended to be delivered through School Administrative Districts and their partners. While a private school could participate in this program it would need to do so in conjunction with an applicant who falls under the definition of School Administrative Unit as defined by 20-A M.R.S. §1(26).

Q: Is there a maximum or minimum anticipated award dollar amount?

A: Available funding amounts will be allocated based on the pool of selected applicants. Funding for the entire program will not exceed \$2 million. While there is no minimum award amount, the core purpose of this program is for schools to hire or continue to employ housing navigation specialists and proposals should be sized accordingly.

Q: How many awards are anticipated to be made?

A: MaineHousing intends to make awards with the aim of reaching as many students as possible. Award numbers and amounts will be dependent upon the applicant pool.

Q: In this RFP and in the scope of work on page 6, was the use of "a Specialist" and "The Specialist" in the singular intended to indicate that SAU applicants are limited to hiring/subcontracting only one position or 1 FTE per award, regardless of the numbers of eligible families served?

A: An SAU may employ more than one Specialist based on need, but MaineHousing expects that one Specialist will serve as the lead for communication and reporting with and to MaineHousing.

Q: During the SHoPP pilot, families at imminent risk of housing loss (e.g. those with an eviction notice or a 30- or 90-day notice to terminate) were eligible to be assisted. Is this still an allowable use under this new grant?

A: Yes. This program has focused on supporting households who are experiencing homelessness, as well as households who are at imminent risk of falling into homelessness. Our intention is to continue to allow navigators flexibility to support households in both of those categories, even though “imminent risk” is not specified in the definitions.

Q: Our SAU serves very high numbers of families that speak languages other than English. Where should the cost of translation services for grant-funded eligible housing support activities be placed within the budget categories?

A: Translation services can be included under the Direct Client Assistance Other/Misc. Expenses budget line.

Q: Could grant funds be used to support a multilingual family specialist?

A: Awarded SAUs are expected to employ a Homelessness Prevention and Housing Navigation Specialist. SAUs could employ a multilingual Specialist if it best meets the needs of the student population.

Q: This RFP does not indicate a match requirement; if an SAU plans to provide in-kind support (e.g. staff time not funded under this proposal), where should that be indicated in the narrative or budget format?

A: SAU's are not required to match this grant, but match commitments can demonstrate effort and can be included in the narrative sections addressing the staffing plan and services to be provided in narrative form, a table, or both.