

FY2024 Emergency Safety and Security Webinar

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as of March 13, 2024

(Please Note Clarifications to Question 33 on the Four Requirements for NSPIRE Eligibility and List of NSPIRE Eligible Items) which was updated February 28, 2024

This update adds the final section which is questions and answers from the Second HUD Webinar held March 6, 2024

Application Due Date: March 27, 2024, by 5:00pm Eastern Daylight Time

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How to Apply

- 1. Can you confirm that the period we are looking at is Oct 1, 2023, to present?**

All safety and security emergencies must have occurred or have been determined within the Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 — September 30) in which the funds were appropriated. The current Federal Fiscal Year is October 1,2023- September 30, 2024.

- 2. In the notice, it states that the local crime data should be for the current fiscal year. To clarify, does that mean any crime data must be about crime on the PHA property between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024?**

Yes, the current Federal Fiscal Year is October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. You must demonstrate in a detailed narrative how crime at or in the close vicinity of the development(s) poses an increased threat to the health and safety of PH residents in the current FY.

Crime data should be from the following sources per PIH Notice 2023-10:

- a. Local law enforcement reports.
- b. Uniform Crime Reports.
- c. PHA police data.
- d. PHA incident reports.
- e. Newspaper articles (about crime on PHA property).
- f. Internet crime data such as Neighborhood List Serves that lists types and numbers of offenses; and PHAs must indicate the source of the crime data in the narrative and must include a summary of the crime data by general crime category, (e.g., murders, assaults, property damage, and property break-ins).

3. What if the crime data and news articles are in Spanish is that an issue?

HUD will review crime data and news articles that are submitted in Spanish.

4. Are the forms SF-LLL, HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP, and HUD-50071 required to be submitted with the application?

No, the following forms are submitted post-award with the EPIC document package (along with the signed ESSG ACC Amendment):

- Form HUD-50071, Certification of Payments to Influence Federal Transactions
- Standard Form (SF)-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
- Certification of Compliance with PHA Plans and Related Regulations. (For PHAs with 250 units or more: Form HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP, and for PHAs with less than 250 units: HUD-50077-CRT-SM) Note: In lieu of submitting a new form, PHAs may provide a copy of the HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP or HUD-50077-CRT-SM, from the most recent PHA Plan submission (do not submit entire PHA Plan).
- MTW agencies may submit a copy of the MTW certifications of compliance submitted with the most recent MTW Agency Plan.

Applicant Eligibility/Threshold

5. Who can apply, Public Housing and Section 8 PHAs?

Only Public Housing Agencies can apply for funding and only public housing units under an Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) are eligible for funding. If a PHA has both PH units and non-PH units, ESSG funds must only be used to pay for a proportionate share of the costs for the total project based on the percentage of PH units in the project. (E.g. 50% of the units are PH and 50% non-PH, the ESSG can only be used to pay for 50% of the project cost. The PHA must come up with the other 50% from non-PH sources.

ESSG can only be used to cover eligible expenses to address threats to resident safety caused by a safety and security emergency. Grants must be used for Capital Fund eligible items that address the emergency capital need (see 24 C.F.R. § 905.200(b), Eligible Activities of the Capital Fund). The request must address the identified threat posed to the health and safety of a PHA's public housing residents by crime and drug-related activity, fire, or by the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning.

6. Does this include Project based Section 8?

No. Only Public Housing units under an Annual Contribution Contract (ACC) are eligible for funding.

7. Why are units under a “Commitment to enter into a Housing Assistance Payment Contract” (CHAP) excluded?

We only have a limited amount of funding for Safety and Security grants. Therefore, Asset Management Projects (AMPs) that have a CHAP for the project are not eligible for Emergency Safety and Security Funding (AMPs with a CHAP for partial conversion are also ineligible to apply). If a PHA receives a CHAP for conversion of a project after receiving emergency safety and security funding and prior to fully expending the grant, the PHA will be required to return all unexpended funds. If a PHA receives a CHAP for partial conversion of a project after receiving emergency safety and security funding and prior to fully expending the grant, the PHA will be required to return all unexpended funds.

8. If we have several different sites, could we get the grant at site one this year and then site two a different year?

A PHA can apply for funding for one or more of its projects for one or more purposes, but the grant is limited to \$250,000 per application cycle. Additionally, there is a one-time funding limited by AMP. A PHA is ineligible to receive ESSG funding if it has previously received ESSG funding for the same AMP for the same broad purpose (crime prevention, CO detectors, smoke/heat alarms detectors). If a PHA receives ESSG funding this year for a particular AMP, the

PHA cannot apply for ESSG funding for the same broad purpose at the same AMP in following years.

9. Is there a minimum number of public housing units that the PHA must have in order to apply?

No.

10. If a PHA property received funding for crime and drug related activity in a previous year, they are ineligible to reapply for ESSG for that purpose, regardless of how long ago it was?

Yes. However, the PHA could apply for one of the other two broad purposes (carbon monoxide alarms/detectors, and/or smoke/heat alarms/detectors). (Per paragraph 3 of PIH Notice 2023-10)

11. Can I add security cameras and CO2/ fire detectors to my 5-year CFP action plan just in case my emergency grant does not get funded so that I can move money around if need be?

Yes, this is acceptable, but the PHA would need to amend their Five-Year Action Plan in EPIC.

12. Can the ESSG application include items that are in the 5-year Action Plan?

Yes, you can include items in the approved 5-year Action Plan in EPIC. If the PHA is not funded under ESSG, the PHA can do the work with Capital Funds.

13. If a PHA is applying for a mixed finance site, do they need to include documentation showing that they have the required matching funds available? If so, what type of documentation would be acceptable?

Yes, submit financial statements for mixed finance development that shows available funds. ESSG funds must only be used to pay for a proportionate share of the costs for the total project based on the percentage of PH units in the project. (E.g. 50% of the units are PH and 50% non-PH, the ESSG can only be used to pay for 50% of the project cost. The PHA must come up with the other 50% from non-PH sources.)

14. Can a PHA correct errors in their application?

Yes, as long as the corrected application with all documents in a single PDF is submitted to the PIHOICI@hud.gov mailbox prior to the application due date (March 27, 2024, at 5:00 EDT). The PHA should put in the subject line that it is submitting a revised application and the date and time of the original submission and that the PHA would like HUD to replace the previous submission with the revised submission.

Application Evaluation

15. How many (eligible) applications are funded in each round?

There are 10 HUD regions. Therefore, there will be 10 eligible applications funded in each round as long as there are eligible applications to be funded in all 10 regions for that round.

16. How are the regional lottery entries ranked?

Should the total funding requested from eligible applications exceed available funds, the Department will select eligible applications for funding through a lottery process designed to achieve a broad national distribution of funds, based on the Departmental Regions (Regions 1 through 10). At a minimum, set-aside funding would fund at least one application in each Region, assuming eligible applications from each Region and sufficient available funds.

17. Are eligible applicants entered into a lottery, from which funded projects will be selected? Does that mean that submission criteria are not weighted, such as strength of narrative or need?

Yes, all eligible applications are placed into the lottery. Applications are reviewed and deemed eligible, or ineligible based on the criteria in PIH Notice 2023-10.

Eligible/Ineligible Activities

18. Is there a list of eligible items?

The list of eligible items is not an exclusive list. You should email the SafetyandSecurityQuestions@hud.gov for questions regarding eligibility of expenses.

19. Are emergency evacuation chairs for mobility impaired residents eligible (in case of a fire) in a high-rise building?

Yes.

20. Does Emergency Alarm Systems include fire alarm/sprinkler systems?

Yes.

21. Are CO detectors still eligible, even though PIH Notice 2022-01 required that they be installed in PH by 12/2022?

Yes, CO Detectors are required to meet NSPIRE Standards if there is a source in the property.

22. Must the PHA have suffered a loss to tie back to the emergency need for smoke detectors?

No.

23. With fire/emergency safety, could the purchase of fire extinguishers and their certification be an eligible purchase?

Fire extinguishers could be an eligible item if they are integral to maintain safe and secure properties, including to address instances of arson that has occurred in the current fiscal year.

24. Are storm doors allowable?

Yes, security storm doors with locks are an allowable expense as long as they are tied to a Safety and Security emergency in the current federal fiscal year.

25. Is outdoor lighting an eligible expense?

Yes, outdoor lighting for the exterior of buildings, walkways, and parking lots is an eligible expense. Interior lighting for hallways, stairwells, and common areas could also be an eligible expense.

26. Is installation of handicap/automatic doors at entrances of the building allowed?

Yes, as long as it is tied to a safety and security emergency in the current federal fiscal year.

27. Can we convert from gas to electric ranges to limit exposure to carbon monoxide sources?

Yes, it could be an eligible item as long as it is tied directly to a safety and security emergency at the PHA. For example, if the PHA has experienced malfunctioning gas stoves (emergencies should be due to the equipment and not merely because they are gas stoves, and the same argument could be made for gas heat) or if there is a local law (certain California counties require if there is new construction or substantial rehabilitation and also upcoming requirement in NYC) requiring a conversion to electric ranges, then it could be eligible.

28. Can I apply for the cost of installation and any needed materials if I already purchased cameras?

Yes, but ESSG cannot be used for the reimbursement of costs already incurred for the purchase of the cameras.

29. Can a PHA apply if they already purchased and installed smoke detectors? Can we still apply for this reason?

Yes, if the smoke detectors installed are obsolete or do not meet HUD current requirements. PHAs cannot apply to reimburse themselves for the purchase of smoke detectors already purchased and installed. If the PHA previously received ESSG funding for smoke detectors, they would only be eligible if they are applying to replace detectors that don't meet the current code. Smoke

alarms must be sealed battery or hard-wired devices that meet the requirements of section 601 of Title VI, "Smoke Alarms in Federally Assisted Housing" in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, (Public Law 117-328 enacted December 29, 2022) which added section 3(a)(9) to of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a))

<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr2617/BILLS-117hr2617enr.pdf>

30. Are hardwired smoke detectors - sealed unit or battery backup acceptable?

Yes, smoke alarms must be sealed battery or hard-wired devices that meet the requirements of section 601 of Title VI, "Smoke Alarms in Federally Assisted Housing" in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, (Public Law 117-328 enacted December 29, 2022) which added section 3(a)(9) to of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a))

<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr2617/BILLS-117hr2617enr.pdf>

31. Are license plate readers eligible items?

Yes, license plate readers are eligible items.

32. Are electronic access gates included in fencing and is exterior lighting eligible?

Yes, electronic access gates can be included in fencing or as a separate work activity. Fencing, electronic access gates, and exterior lighting are all eligible items.

33. Are Health and Safety items related to the new HUD NSPIRE requirements eligible for ESSG funding?

*Yes. Per the NSPIRE standards at [24 CFR 5.703](#) – the inside, outside and units must be free of health and safety hazards that pose a danger to residents. Types of health and safety concerns include but are not limited to Life-threatening conditions such as **carbon monoxide, electrical hazards, flammable materials, or other fire hazards**. **Items related to a safety and security emergency to these hazards would be eligible for ESSG if funds are used for permanent repair** NSPIRE Standards are found at www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/reac/nspire/standards.*

To be NSPIRE eligible for ESSG the application must meet 4 requirements:

1. *Must be a Capital Fund eligible intervention to remediate certain life-threatening conditions only (see below list of life-threatening conditions that is not all-inclusive);*
2. *Must be to permanently remediate the life-threatening condition;*
3. *Must be items from an official REAC NSPIRE inspection or from an official NSPIRE inspection, or be identified from a PHA self-inspection; and*
4. *Must not use an ESSG grant to reimburse NSPIRE related expenses from previously completed work.*

Note: For occupied units, deficiencies on the life-threatening list must be corrected within 24 hours as provided in [24 CFR 5.711\(c\)](#) and described in the [NSPIRE Final Rule](#). PHAs are not exempted from the 24-hour correction requirement because an NSPIRE-related item is included in an ESSG application. The NSPIRE ESSG category is designed to provide funding to support a permanent intervention to remediate a life-threatening condition where a PHA addressed the deficiency with a temporary fix or blocked the hazard to meet the 24-hour correction requirement. For example, if there is a life-threatening deficiency identified on a chimney, the PHA may have blocked the fireplace so that tenants cannot use it until permanent repairs are conducted (using ESSG funds).

Inspectable Item	Deficiency
Call-for-Aid System	System is blocked, or pull cord is higher than 6 inches off the floor. The system does not function properly.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	Carbon monoxide alarm is missing, not installed, or not installed in a proper location. Carbon monoxide alarm is obstructed. Carbon monoxide alarm does not produce an audio or visual alarm when tested.
Chimney	A visually accessible chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood burning appliance is incomplete or damaged such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior. Chimney exhibits signs of structural failure.
Clothes Dryer	Electric dryer transition duct is detached or missing.
Exhaust Ventilation	Gas dryer transition duct is detached or missing. Electric dryer exhaust ventilation system has restricted airflow. Dryer transition duct is constructed of unsuitable material. Gas dryer exhaust ventilation system has restricted airflow.
Door – Entry	Entry door is missing.

Door – Fire Labeled	Fire labeled door is missing.
Egress	Obstructed means of egress. Sleeping room is located on the 3 rd floor or below and has an obstructed rescue opening. Fire escape is obstructed.
Electrical – Conductor, Outlet, and Switch	Outlet or switch is damaged. Exposed electrical conductor. Water is currently in contact with an electrical conductor.
Electrical – Service Panel	The overcurrent protection device is damaged.
Exit Sign	Exit sign is damaged, missing, obstructed, or not adequately illuminated.
Fire Escape	Fire escape component is damaged or missing.
Fire Extinguisher	Fire extinguisher pressure gauge reads over or under-charged. Fire extinguisher service tag is missing, illegible, or expired. The fire extinguisher is damaged or missing.
Flammable and Combustible Items	Flammable or combustible items are on or within 3 feet of an appliance that provides heat for thermal comfort or a fuel-burning water heater. Improperly stored chemicals.
Guardrail	Guardrail is missing or not installed. Guardrail is not functionally adequate.
Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)	The inspection date is on or between October 1 and March 31 and the permanently installed heating source is not working or the permanently installed heating source is working and the interior temperature is below 64 degrees Fahrenheit. Unvented space heaters that burn gas, oil, or kerosene are present. Combustion chamber cover or gas shutoff valve is missing from a fuel burning heating appliance. Fuel burning heating system or device exhaust vent is misaligned, blocked, disconnected, improperly connected, damaged, or missing.
Leak – Gas or Oil Mold-like Substance	Presence of mold like substance at extremely high levels is observed visually.

Smoke Alarm

Smoke alarms are not installed where required. The smoke alarm is obstructed. Smoke alarm does not produce an audio or visual alarm when tested.

Sprinkler Assembly

Sprinkler head assembly is encased or obstructed by an item or object that is within 18 inches of the sprinkler head. Sprinkler assembly component is damaged, inoperable, or missing and it is detrimental to performance. The sprinkler assembly has evidence of corrosion. Sprinkler assembly has evidence of foreign material that is detrimental to performance.

Structural System

Structural system exhibits signs of serious failure.

Toilet

Only 1 toilet was installed, and it is missing.

Water Heater

Chimney or flue piping is blocked, misaligned, or missing. Gas shutoff valve is damaged, missing, or not installed.

Also Note: Per the future NSPIRE standard, the unit must include at least one sealed battery or hard-wired **smoke detector**, in proper working condition, in the following locations:

- (A) On each level of the unit;
- (B) Inside each bedroom;
- (C) Within 21 feet of any door to a bedroom measured along a path of travel; and
- (D) Where a smoke detector installed outside a bedroom is separated from an adjacent living area by a door, a smoke detector must also be installed on the living area side of the door.

Note: If the unit is occupied by any hearing-impaired person, the **smoke detectors** must have an alarm system designed for hearing-impaired persons. While the current NSPIRE Smoke Alarm Standard does not include a requirement for 10-year battery, sealed or hard-wired devices, this will be added before December 2024.

Per NSPIRE standards the unit must meet or exceed the **carbon monoxide detection** standards set by HUD through Federal Register notification;

Per NSPIRE standards a unit must have a guardrail when there is an elevated walking surface with a drop off of 30 inches or greater measured vertically.

Other

34. Is there an updated version of [PIH Notice 2023-10](#)?

The most current notice (Published April 21, 2023 and amended June 14, 2023) is posted on our [website](#):

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/capfund/emfundig

Note: PIH Notice 2023-10 has been amended in part by this year's ESSG application announcement.

35. May we have the link to the Webinar presentation?

The link to the presentation and the slides will be posted to the OCI Emergency grant webpage:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/capfund/emfundig

Questions from Second Webinar 3/6/2024

NSPIRE Questions

36. If we are applying for NSPIRE needs, does it still require the crime data?

Crime data is not required for NSPIRE needs. See question 33 for more detail on NSPIRE. Also:

From the NSPIRE Standards – smoke and carbon monoxide alarms placement guidance
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/reac/nspire/standards

NSPIRE Standards – See Table 65 at the end for NSPIRE Life Threatening Conditions
https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/6092-N-05nspire_final_standards.pdf

General questions about NSPIRE can also go to NSPIRE@hud.gov.

Are Combo smoke and CO devices acceptable?

Yes, but you don't need as many CO devices as smoke detectors in a unit. Follow the NSPIRE Standards from the link:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/reac/nspire/standards

Eligible Activities

37. Will the ESSG replace an old car engine that operates as an emergency generator in a high rise building with elderly residents?

Yes, but only if the replacement emergency generator complies with state and local codes.

38. Can use part of the funding to purchase electric ranges when converting from gas to electric?

Yes, and see previous question 27 above.

Crime Data

39. Can you go over examples of crime data that would support an outdoor lighting application?

There would be no specific type of crime in this instance. Per paragraph 5(B) of PIH Notice 2023-10, the PHA must demonstrate in the narrative that it has experienced an increased threat to the health and safety of the public housing residents. Also, see paragraph 5(E) of the PIH Notice 2023-10 for the types of crime data that can be submitted. The crime data along with the narrative should demonstrate that the PHA has experienced a crime emergency in the current FY (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024).

Application

40. Is there an actual fillable application?

There is no formal application like in a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). See paragraph 5 of PIH Notice 2023-10 for the documents and forms that make up the application.

41. Has the form 50075-1 been updated?

Yes, the Capital Fund Information Collection 2577-0157 was approved January 31, 2024 and the new [HUD-50075.1](#) (Expiration 1/31/2024 has been posted to [HUDCLIPS](#). It is acceptable to use the form that expired 11/30/2023.

42. Each AMP can apply separately. Can the Central Office place a separate application?

Yes, but for the purposes of the lottery they will be combined into one application. Also, the PHA is limited to a maximum grant amount of \$250,000 per fiscal year.

43. If a PHA has previously received a grant for multiple AMPs that cover multiple projects and was not able to complete all the work because of emergency repairs that required the use of available CF at the time of application, can they reapply?

If the PHA was previously funded for multiple AMPs and did not expend funds on an AMP, then that AMP would still be eligible. The PHA should explain the circumstances in the application narrative.