



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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### **American Rescue Plan Act 2021 (ARPA): Competitive Grant FAQs**

#### **A. Grant Overview**

**1. Can we get a copy of this webinar?**

- Yes. Please use the following [link](#).

**2. What is the grant time period?**

- The period of performance will be from May 1, 2023 through March 31, 2025.

**3. What is the fundamental difference between competitive and non competitive grants?**

- This grant opportunity is competitive. Competitive grants are awarded based on the merits of the application. The applicant must specify what will be done during the period of performance and what the proposed costs will be. The grant funds are awarded based on a competitive application process.

**4. Is this ARPA grant based on past finance budgets or is it based on a future budget of proposed plans and activities that we plan to implement to enhance the lifestyle of the persons served?**

- It is based on activities that you plan to implement that meet the criteria.

#### **B. Grant Application**

**1. Can a provider file multiple applications or only one?**

- Applicants may file one application that may apply to more than one activity.

**2. Can one organization apply for more than one grant, say for 2 very different projects?**

- An organization can apply for one grant for different projects.

**3. Which questions are weighted?**

- When completing the application, a maximum score for each category will be shown.

**4. Who will be judging or deciding on grant awards?**

- The DDA will review and score grant applications based on the criteria.
- 5. If you are not funded, is it possible to request the score sheet and/or receive feedback on the application?**
    - Applicants will receive a notification if their submission was approved or not approved.
  - 6. Will you need to submit an FY 24 agency budget in order to apply? I am asking in case that budget is not approved at the time of submission?**
    - You will need to provide your latest audited financial statements.

### **C. Grant Funds**

- 1. Is there a maximum amount that can be requested/applied for?**
  - Participants can be awarded between \$50k - \$350k.
- 2. If an application is submitted, can it be partially approved, i.e., for some portion of the request?**
  - Yes, applications may be approved in part or in full
- 3. If your award is not approved, will you receive a letter saying why it wasn't approved?**
  - Applicants will receive a notification if their submission was approved or not approved.
- 4. Will you also be given an opportunity to revise if not approved?**
  - No.
- 5. Will money from this grant be provided up front or is this a reimbursable grant?**
  - 50% of the grant will be funded upfront.
- 6. Are you able to utilize all funds within the 1st year for the funding**
  - Yes
- 7. Can we apply grant funds to money spent prior to May 1, 2023?**
  - No, the grant funds need to be spent within the period of performance.
- 8. What kind of reporting will we need to submit for how the funds are spent?**

- All awardees will be required to submit *quarterly reports* via GrantVantage to document expenditures, activities, and outcomes in accordance with the approved budget and work plan.
- A detailed final report will be required that summarizes grant activities and outcomes. Grantees may be required to make presentations to share lessons learned and positive outcomes.

**9. What is the time period for when expenses need to occur? Any retroactive expenses?**

- Expenses will need to occur during the period of performance of May 1, 2023 and March 31, 2025.

**10. Will receiving this grant impact funding being taken from current DDA services we provide?**

- No

## **D. Grant Eligibility**

**1. Please clarify if profit DDA licensed providers are eligible and not just non-profits?**

- DDA licensed providers and not for profit organizations are eligible for this opportunity.

**2. Are local health departments providing CCS services eligible to apply?**

- Yes

**3. Are grants available to nonprofit and for-profit entities?**

- Grants are available to DDA Title 7 providers, and non-profit organizations that support and enhance the IDD Community.

**4. I just received my non profit status, am I eligible to apply for this grant?**

- You must demonstrate how you support/enhance the IDD community

**5. If our agency participated in the ARPA before, are we able to apply again?**

- Yes

**6. Are licensed clinical professional counselors providing mental health services for individuals with disabilities (including DDA clients) eligible for the grant?**

- No.

## **E. Grant Activities**

- 1. What activities can be funded through this grant opportunity?**
  - Grant activities should achieve the grant outcome and objectives as listed in the announcement.
  
- 2. Can we use the funding for enhancement on Salaries/Bonus for CCS Providers to help retain them?**
  - No.
  
- 3. Can we use the funding for adding new positions?**
  - Yes, but you must demonstrate how you will sustain these positions.
  
- 4. Can we use the funds to purchase vehicles?**
  - Grant activities should achieve the grant outcome and objectives as listed in the announcement.
  
- 5. Can the grant funds be used to expand services already in place, for example, residential services - to purchase another home to expand and provide residential services to additional service users?**
  - Grant activities should achieve the grant outcome and objectives as listed in the announcement.
  
- 6. Can we use grant funds to develop or secure skill-building programmatic curricula for the participants that we support?**
  - Grant activities should achieve the grant outcome and objectives as listed in the announcement.
  
- 7. Can we use grant funds to develop software that allow us to strengthen web-based learning for the participants that we support?**
  - Grant activities should achieve the grant outcome and objectives as listed in the announcement.
  
- 8. Can you use the grant to fund administrative staff salaries who provide programmatic support?**
  - Grant activities should achieve the grant outcome and objectives as listed in the announcement.
  
- 9. Can we use the grant money for educating youth with disabilities?**

- Grant activities should achieve the grant outcome and objectives as listed in the announcement.

**10. Are capital improvements to group homes included?**

- Grant activities should achieve the grant outcome and objectives as listed in the announcement.

**11. Could infrastructure funding go towards costs associated with LTSS implementation?**

- Yes.

**12. Under the third priority (enhancing independence and inclusive opportunities) could we request funding for two new wheelchair vans to expedite engagement in the community?**

- Grant activities should achieve the grant outcome and objectives as listed in the announcement.

**13. Under the fourth priority (developing resources and infrastructure that strengthen the delivery of services) could we request funding for helping to pay for the monthly managed IT service that facilitates our CIMS software and compliance with regulations?**

- Grant activities should achieve the grant outcome and objectives as listed in the announcement.

## **F. Grant Application Technical Assistance/Resources**

**1. Who can we contact for assistance in completing a grant application in the application program?**

- For program related budget questions email [elizabeth.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:elizabeth.peters@maryland.gov)
- For technical questions on how use the budget template email [applicantssupport@grantvantage.com](mailto:applicantssupport@grantvantage.com)

**2. Once the application is completed, can you go back to it with corrections?**

- If the applicant does not formally submit the application, the user can edit or update any part of the application, budget or objective templates.

**3. Is it possible to print the budget and other sections to have forms to work on before we enter online?**

- Yes. From within the application, users can select “Application Report” from the top menu to print all the application questions. For the Budget and Objective Templates, applicants should use their browser command to print. Right-clicking on the page and selecting print to PDF. Save the document to the folder you prefer.

**4. If someone else in your agency is registered with GrantVantage, can another person be added and how is that accomplished?**

- Yes, new users can be added to an existing applicant organization. The user currently registered will add the new user with the following steps:
  - Select **My Applicant Organization**, then select the **User** tab
  - Select **+New, complete** the form, and select **Save**
  - Then provide the credentials to the new user

**5. How do we get to GrantVantage?**

- The GrantVantage Funder Portal URL for MDH DDA:  
<https://mdh.gvgrantcloud.com/account/Announcement>

**6. Does GrantVantage retain the information we uploaded from previous applications?**

- GrantVantage retains PDF Reports of all previously submitted applications. Select “My Submitted Applications” to access the reports.

**7. Will there be any grant submission aids that provide instructions for grant submissions or does one have to be in the grant system to see the instructions?**

- A step-by-step guide is available on the Funding Announcement Attachments and all additional instructions will be provided during the application process.