

Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program, FY2020

PSO Q&A from TARC Network

April 16, 2020

General

Can CJD schedule a call open to all interested applicants to discuss the CESF program and answer questions?

- We'd be a little hesitant to schedule an open call to all applicants as the sheer volume of participants on the call may be a little overwhelming to manage.

Is it possible to schedule a conference call with CJD to enable COG planners to discuss the CESF program and answer questions?

- Yes, this option is much better. Happy to do a webinar and walk through the entire RFA with CJ Planners. TARC, do you have webinar system we could piggyback?

Can CJD post the responses to these questions on eGrants as FAQs?

- After the conference call, we can look to add an FAQ to the RFA.

Applications

Do all fields of the application need to be completed by applicants?

- Applicants need to do their due diligence in completing the application to the best of their ability. With that said, there are sections on the Narrative that would require minimal information.

Will COGs have a role in ensuring all jurisdictions within their regions have a fair shot at equitable distribution of the funds? Will the applications be scored locally by CJACs or COG Boards since different areas have different situations?

- PSO will be coordinating closely with COGs prior to issuing awards to ensure a fair distribution of funds between all jurisdictions with their regions.

What factors will be used to distribute the funding fairly across a region?

- PSO will be coordinating with the COGS to ensure funds are distributed evenly. PSO asks agencies to submit requests that are reasonable and are an accurate representation of true emergency need versus want.

Since the money was divided by region, will there be another "supplemental allocation" if money is leftover for a region?

- PSO intends to re-allocate any remaining available balance until entirety of funds is expended. PSO is looking at multiple possibilities so cannot guarantee supplemental awards at this time.

If a jurisdiction were to submit an application that the OOG deems ineligible, will that jurisdiction be allowed to submit another application?

- Agencies should submit applications based on the parameters listed in the RFA. PSO will communicate directly with agencies to identify and fix any discrepancies found in their application.

Eligible Entities

Are university police departments eligible to apply for the CESF program?

- **Ineligible.**

Can jurisdictions eligible for direct allocations from BJA's CESF program funding also apply for funding from the state CESF program?

- **Yes. Per RFA, they must seek funds directly from BJA first and may be required to submit additional information related to their BJA application to mitigate any duplication of funds.**

Are only local entities that are a taxing authority who also report UCR and NIBRS eligible to apply or are drainage districts, water districts, municipal utility districts, etc allowed to apply also?

- **Cities and counties only.**

Are non-criminal justice entities allowed to apply for CESF monies administered by the PSO-CJD from the BJA to help "Public Safety Agencies"?

- **Cities and counties only.**

Are non-profits eligible to apply for this funding?

- **No**

Eligible Expenses

Does the 2/1/20 start date mean expenses incurred for overtime, purchase of PPE, etc. on or after 2/1/20 in response to COVID-19 are eligible under this program?

- **Yes, retroactive expenses are eligible.**

Are subscriber units an eligible expenditure for equipment with this funding at the state level through CJD? BJA has determined subscriber units for equipment was an eligible expense for jurisdictions eligible to receive a direct allocation.

- **No. PSO has multiple avenues that agencies can apply for radio interoperability funding. The priority of these funds is to help first responders cope with the immediate impact of the COVID19 pandemic. While BJA may have determined radios as eligible, PSO is targeting CESF funds towards emergency needs i.e. overtime, PPE, jail operations, medical supplies.**

Are sheriff and jail staff salary increases and hazard pay in response to COVID-19 allowable costs under the CESF program? Is hazard pay an eligible expense for police departments?

- **Yes. Prior to seeking reimbursement, the agency will need to develop/establish a policy outlining hazard/differential pay.**

Do public works personnel qualify as "other essential staff" under personnel overtime as an allowable cost?

- **Priority will go to first responders. PSO will revisit that decision if funds are remaining at a later date.**

The examples provided of what is eligible is all reimbursable by FEMA. What types of projects does the OOG envision funding?

- **PSO recognizes that there are multiple sources of federal funds available. Applicants will have to determine their agency needs and apply accordingly. Examples of allowable costs/activities are listed in the RFA.**