

DATE: January 30, 2024

REASON FOR THESE SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS

The U.S. Department of Housing’s (HUD) Substantial Amendment Section 24 CFR 91.505 (b), outlines the criteria for Substantial Amendments and states “the jurisdiction shall identify in its Citizen Participation Plan the criteria it will use for deciding what equals a Substantial Amendment. It is these Substantial Amendments that are subject to a citizen participation process, in accordance with the jurisdiction’s citizen participation plan.”

Washington State requires amendments to the Annual Action Plans and Consolidated Plans when “components of the programs within the Consolidated Plan or the Annual Action Plan are proposed to change significantly in scope and eligibility (such as eliminating a component or changing the method of distribution of funds).” The Substantial Amendments mentioned in this document, have been prepared with the HUD and Washington State guidance that has been issued to date.

The proposed Substantial Amendments would allow a change in the way the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) distributes Formula HOPWA funds as defined in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan. This change would allow DOH to use accrued, unobligated 2023-2024 HOPWA Formula dollars towards HOPWA-eligible Resource Identification activities at the grantee and project sponsor level. By supporting these activities, DOH hopes to:

- Improve health services and outcomes for persons living with HIV/AIDS
- Increase equity in housing services
- Increase the efficiency of the activities at the system level

SUMMARY

HUD is the federal agency in charge of providing housing support funding to states across the country. In 2023, DOH received \$1,576,185.00 in Formula grant dollars from HUD. The proposed amendments would allow for a change in the Formula method of distribution of funds. It would also allow DOH to use the accrued, unobligated \$135,000.00 to fund grantee and project sponsor activities. DOH hopes these activities can:

- Improve the development of housing resources
- Make the coordination of the housing system work better
- Allow for better assessment of housing needs and implementation of housing best practices
- Increase attendance at HUD-approved trainings
- Continue DOH’s commitment to equity and program effectiveness

All these activities align with DOH and HUD’s overall objectives.

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE 2020-2024 CONSOLIDATED PLAN

Change to the Method of Distribution

The change in Method of Distribution, which outlines what HOPWA categories/activities are funded, is currently not incorporated in the language under use of funds stated in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. Because of this, it requires a Substantial Amendment. The State's current 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan will be amended to reflect the addition of Resource Identification and eligible uses of the grant funds. These are the proposed changes:

Change #1: Amend section SP-35 about Anticipated Resources to reflect the addition of Resource Identification under use of funds and narrative description. See page 132; -91.315 (a)(4), 91.320 (c) (1,2).

Change #2: Amend section AP-25 about Allocation Priorities to reflect the addition of Resource Identification under use of funds and narrative description. See pages 178-179; -91.320(d).

Change #3: Amend section AP-30 about the Method of Distribution to reflect the addition of Resource Identification under use of funds and narrative description. See page 190; -91.320(d)&(k); Table 61 #10.

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE PROGRAM YEAR 2023-2024 ANNUAL PLAN

Change to the Method of Distribution

The change to add and fund Resource Identification represents a change in the Method of Distribution, which outlines what HOPWA categories/activities are funded, and is currently not incorporated in the language under sections outlining methods of distribution by the State Program in the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan. Because of this, it requires a Substantial Amendment.

The State's current 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan will be amended to reflect the addition of Resource Identification and how this category funding will be distributed.

Change #1: Amend section AP-15 that talks about expected resources to reflect the addition of Resource Identification under use of funds and narrative description. See page 17; -91.320 (c) (1,2).

Change #2: Amend section AP-25 about allocation priorities to reflect the addition of Resource Identification under use of funds and narrative description. See page 3; -91.320 (d).

Change #3: Amend section AP-30 about method of distribution to describe how DOH will incorporate resource identification into the method of distribution. See page 23; -91.320(d)&(k); Table 7.

NEXT STEPS

- The proposed changes to the program year 2020 Consolidated Plan and program year 2023 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment will be available for review on the DOH's HOPWA Website at <https://doh.wa.gov/HOPWA> beginning Wednesday, January 31, 2024.
- An email about these amendments will go out to all HOPWA Project Sponsor agencies for review on January 31, 2024. The 30-day public review period will end on March 1, 2024.

- A public hearing will be held to receive comments on the Substantial Amendment to the program year 2020 Consolidated Plan and program year 2023 Annual Action Plan on Friday, March 1, 2024, from 1:00-2:30 PM. The public comment period will end March 8, 2024.
- The Hearing will be held via Teams meeting at the following links:

Microsoft Teams meeting

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- To assist individuals with disabilities or limited English proficiency, Washington State Department of Health will provide accommodations and/or translation when requested.
- Electronic comments can be sent to julie.hudson@doh.wa.gov. For more information, call Julie Hudson at 360-522-2625.

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