



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

***Request for Application: Preparing for Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH)-Related Emergencies
Among People Experiencing Homelessness***

Questions and Answers Document

This document contains questions asked at the Informational Webinar held on 6/15/2022 as well as other questions received that may benefit all Applicants. Find the recording of the full Informational Webinar here, and the slide deck [here](#).

Can the purchase of items such as handwashing stations be considered for funding?

Potentially. Equipment may not be purchased with this funding, but materials/supplies may. To be considered under the materials/supplies category, items must be purchased for use as a part of activities in this RFA and must be under \$5,000 per unit. All budgets are subject to approval by the NACCHO team.

Would an application from multiple, participating municipalities be considered for funding?

Local health departments who want to work together across multiple jurisdictions can include that in their applications, but each of those departments should apply separately to have a contract and receive funding. Alternatively, if one organization is applying as the lead, they can put forward one application, mentioning the other partner organizations they intend to work with. In this scenario, only the Lead Organization will be contracted with and receive funds. If the Lead Organization wants to distribute funds to other municipalities, they should reach out to WASH@naccho.org to discuss before submitting their application.

How many awards were being awarded?

5 awards of \$42,000 are available.

Will applications requesting less than \$42,000 be considered?

Because this is a fixed-price contract, please try to submit a budget as close to \$42,000 as possible. Applications requesting less than \$42,000 will be considered. Applications requesting more than \$42,000 will not be considered. If your organization is having trouble with the \$42,000 budget, reach out to WASH@naccho.org to discuss.

We are looking to budget for public health interns to take on the work outlined in the RFA, but our municipality's Civil Service rules require temporary workers to work no longer than 3 months. Would hiring multiple interns focused on specific scopes of work to cover the 10-month grant period be palatable to NACCHO?

Yes, this will be acceptable.

Can part of the funding be utilized to purchase supplies for response to a WASH emergency? (e.g. handwashing stations, hygiene kits)

Please review *Appendix A: Budget Guidance* and *Appendix B: Funding Restrictions* within the RFA to determine if your proposed purchase is eligible since there are restrictions on what is considered



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supplies vs. equipment. If you have questions about this after reviewing the appendices, reach out to WASH@naccho.org for further clarification about your proposal.

If we already have NACCHO travel to Atlanta in our existing budget, does it still need to be included in the budget for this RFA?

No. You may fund another representative to participate in the workshop, or you can omit this budget-line item. Please also indicate this on the budget and narrative.

Can we contract with other agencies as subrecipients?

There is a line to include contractors or consultants on the budget, please review *Appendix A: Budget Guidance*. If this does not fit the agencies you are considering working with, please reach out to us at WASH@naccho.org and we can help determine if and how to classify that budget line item.

Please define the program's definition of "emergency." Does homelessness itself constitute an emergent circumstance, or, is the program's intent to serve those classified as homeless persons during a state of emergency?

Emergency responses activities are not always inclusive of the needs of people experiencing homelessness, increasing vulnerability to poor health outcomes within this population. The goal of this project is to support local jurisdictions in updating and exercising their emergency preparedness plans to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness during WASH-related emergencies (e.g., natural disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, etc.).

Where can I find examples, resources or best/promising practices relevant to this RFA?

Please refer to the resources compiled below. This is not an exhaustive list, but may assist your organization when considering adapting and exercising your plans,

Planning

For resources about planning for WASH emergencies, refer to CDC's [Resources for public health, healthcare and water utilities for WASH-related Emergencies & Outbreaks](#), or NACCHO's [Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene Preparedness Resource Library](#).

Adapting

To tailor a plan to the needs of people experiencing homelessness, consider the following factors that may impact emergency response:

- Lack of transportation: Bring services to where people are
- High prevalence of underlying conditions: Prevent and prepare for exacerbations
- Competing survival needs: Pair health activities with other services
- Limitations on homeless service site capacity: Identify space and staffing support
- Behavioral health and substance use needs: Ensure continued access to treatment
- Service site risk factors (ex: crowding, sanitation): Support infection control

Additional factors and examples can be found in [CDC's Interim Guidance on People Experiencing Homelessness](#). Please note, this interim guidance is currently under review to determine how



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they align with CDC's new COVID-19 Community Levels recommendations, but may provide general insight for your organization.

Implementing

For examples of response activities, find the World Health Organization's [Recommendations to Member States to improve hand hygiene practices to help prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus](#). Like the CDC guidance above, this is interim guidance specific to COVID-19, but may include strategies that would benefit your community. The US Water Alliance also compiled examples of activities in different jurisdictions in their [Providing Water and Sanitation Access to Unhoused Populations during the COVID-19 and Beyond: Guidance for Water and Wastewater Utilities](#)