

Family Violence Prevention & Services Program

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FROM: Debbie A. Powell
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Family and Youth Services Bureau
Administration for Children, Youth, and Families

TO: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Grant Recipient

SUBJECT: Frequently Asked Questions on the allowable use of Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funding to meet the match requirement for the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) program grants

Since 2018, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) program has included approximately \$50 million each year in “DV Bonus Funds” (dedicated funding for housing programs that serve survivors fleeing domestic violence). Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) program recipients and subrecipients are able to apply for these funds through their local CoC, allowing the programs to add essential housing supports to the emergency shelter and supportive services that are offered under FVPSA. As more domestic violence programs add housing supports to their programs, the FVPSA program has received the following frequently-asked questions about how these funds may be used together to supplement services for survivors and not supplant other federal, state, and local public funds in accordance with 42 U.S.C § 10406(c)(6):

Question: Can FVPSA grant recipients and subrecipients use FVPSA grant funds to meet the match requirement for the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) program grants?

Answer: Yes. The HHS Office of General Counsel has confirmed that FVPSA grant recipients can use FVPSA funds to meet the match requirement for the HUD COC grant programs; provided that matching funds are spent on costs that are eligible under both grant programs. The match requirements for the CoC Program state that “[a] recipient or subrecipient may use funds from any source, including any other federal sources (excluding Continuum of Care program funds), as well as State, local, and private sources, provided that funds from the source are not statutorily prohibited to be used as a match.” As there is no such statutory prohibition for the FVPSA program, FVPSA funds may be used to meet CoC match requirements. FVPSA recipients must ensure that program activities meet FVPSA statutory and regulatory requirements (e.g., confidentiality, voluntary services, non-discrimination, accessibility, etc.).

Question: Can HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) grant funds be used to meet FVPSA match requirements?

Answer: No. CoC funds may NOT be used as match for FVPSA grant match requirements, as match for HHS programs from other federal funds is approved only if expressly authorized by the statute of the program where the matching funds are coming from.

Question: Where can programs get more information on effectively using these funds to support the safety and stability of survivors and their children?

Answer: FVPSA, in collaboration with HUD and the Department of Justice (Office on Violence Against Women and Office for Victims of Crime), provides training and technical assistance to enhance the capacity of domestic violence programs to meet the housing needs of survivors and their children through the National Capacity Building Center on Safe and Supportive Housing, a member of the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium. To find resources and request technical assistance, please visit <https://safehousingpartnerships.org/>