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**Bureau of Justice Assistance
FY 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program
Frequently Asked Questions**

ALLOWABLE COSTS

1. Are CESF funds limited to only criminal justice activities?

No. CESF funds are not limited to only criminal justice activities. CESF funds must be used for “preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus,” which is not limited to criminal justice activities.

Preference will be to projects and organizations with a tie to the criminal justice system. Other CARES Act funding is available under other grant sources.

2. What is the purpose of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) program?

The purpose of the BJA CESF program is to provide funding to assist eligible states, local units of government, and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus, as authorized by Division B of H.R. 748, Pub. L. No. 116136 (Emergency Appropriations for Coronavirus Health Response and Agency Operations).

3. Are matching funds required under the CESF program?

No. There is no match requirement under CESF.

4. Who should be listed as the Authorized Representative on a CESF program application?

The authorized representative must have the authority to enter the state, county, municipality, or other eligible unit of local government into a legal contract with DFA/IGS. For units of local government, this person is typically a county commissioner, mayor, city manager, or other similarly designated official. If the unit of local government designates an organizational unit to submit the application, the highest-ranking official of the organizational unit included in the application may be listed as the authorized representative (i.e., Police Chief, Fire Chief, or Sheriff).

5. Can CESF funds be utilized as match for other federal programs such as the FEMA EMPG-S program?

No. Unless otherwise authorized by law, Federal funds may not be matched with other Federal funds. It is appropriate, however, for a CESF award recipient to supplement/leverage expenses related to preventing, preparing for, or responding to the coronavirus. The leveraging of multiple funding sources in a complementary manner to implement comprehensive programs or projects is encouraged and is not seen as inappropriate duplication.

6. What is supplanting and is it allowable under the CESF program?

The definition of supplanting in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) is “to deliberately reduce State or local funds because of the existence of Federal funds. For example, when State funds are appropriated for a stated purpose and Federal funds are awarded for that same purpose, the State replaces its State funds with Federal funds, thereby reducing the total amount available for the stated purpose.” Supplanting is prohibited under the CESF program for all allowable costs.

7. Can CESF funds be used for salaries?

Yes. CESF funds can be used for salaries if the salaries are necessary for preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus.

8. Can CESF funds be used for hazard pay?

Yes. Hazard pay may be allowable under CESF if it is necessary for preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. Agencies must follow their established policies (i.e., not treat federal funds differently from how they treat local funds).

9. Can CESF funds be used to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE), including PPE for use in prisons/jails?

Yes. CESF funds can be used to purchase PPE, including PPE for use in prison/jails.

10. Can CESF funds be used to build isolation facilities?

Yes. However, the recipient will be required to comply with all National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

11. Can CESF funds be used for lodging/housing costs for first responders who have been in contact with COVID-19 positive individuals?

Yes. CESF funds can be used for lodging/housing costs for first responders who have been in contact with COVID-19 positive individuals.

12. Can CESF funds be used for transitional housing for reentry clients or victims of domestic violence?

Yes, CESF funds can be used for transitional housing for reentry clients or victims of domestic violence as long as the purpose of the transitional housing is to prevent, prepare for, or respond to the coronavirus.

13. Can CESF funds be used for death benefits?

Yes. CESF funds can be used to pay death benefits for deaths resulting from the coronavirus. Agencies must follow their established policies (i.e., not treat federal funds differently from how they would treat local funds).

14. Does the requirement for full and open competition for procurements apply under the CESF program?

Yes. The competitive requirements outlined in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) and [2 CFR 200.320](#) apply to CESF. However, the coronavirus pandemic is public health emergency which, under 2 CFR 200.320(f)(2), may be a criteria grantee use to justify non-competitive procurements to obtain some items necessary during an emergency using grant funds.

15. Are indirect costs allowable?

Indirect costs are allowable if the recipient has a current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement approved by its cognizant federal agency or if the recipient is eligible to use, and elects to use, the "de minimis" indirect cost rate as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.414(f).

16. Do the DOJ and federal-wide requirements on allowable costs apply to the CESF program?

Yes. The typical DOJ grant requirements for allowable costs applies to the CESF program. Recipients must follow the guidance for allowable costs in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) and in the Uniform Requirements Cost Principles set out at [2 C.F.R. 200 Subpart E](#).