



Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Request for Proposals (RFP) Frequently Asked Questions

Published November 20, 2023

RFP Related Questions

- 1. Balance of state HOPWA could also include the whole state, though of course, preference is for Greater Minnesota. Is the limit to counties outside of the 13 EMSA in the Consolidated Plan?**

Minnesota Housing's HOPWA formula funds are dedicated to serving individuals and families with low income (at or below 80% of the area median income [AMI]) who are living with HIV/AIDS. It is important to note that this assistance is specifically directed to those outside of the 15-county Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (EMSA), as outlined in Chapter 1 – Section 1.01 or the Terms section of the [HOPWA Program Guide](#).

The City of Minneapolis is the HUD HOPWA grantee for the 15-county EMSA, which includes two counties in Wisconsin; however, given the designated funding of \$2.7 million annually for the 13 metropolitan counties in Minnesota, Minnesota Housing resources are limited to providing services in any of the 74 Greater Minnesota counties.

It is crucial to understand that the project sponsor and any subrecipients are not required to be based in any of the 74 counties. They could be situated within the EMSA. Nevertheless, households benefiting from HOPWA funds must reside specifically within any of the 74 Greater Minnesota counties.

- 2. Are you looking to do one contract for the total amount or are you looking to provide funding to multiple contracts?**

Our primary objective is to maximize the outreach and assistance to as many households as possible, prioritizing areas with the most significant needs within the 74 counties. We are committed to allocating funding strategically to address those needs and serve the communities to the best of our ability. The selection of grantees will be contingent upon the number and completeness of applications we receive.

- 3. Are there any exceptions to the 21-week rule?**

Federal regulations limit STRMU assistance to no more than 21 weeks in any 52-week period. Project sponsors must use the limit of 21 weeks to calculate STRMU assistance within a 52-week (annual) period. HUD may waive these limitations at the discretion of Minnesota Housing requests, as it deems appropriate, and will favorably consider a waiver based on the good faith effort of a Project Sponsor to provide permanent housing under subsection (c) of [24 CFR 574.330](#). Refer to the HUD publication [HOPWA: Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility \(STRMU\) Assistance](#), section 7, Waivers, for more detail.

4. When is the RFP due and how to submit the application?

HOPWA RFP materials are due at noon Central Time on Monday, December 4, 2023. The HOPWA RFP Application and Application Instructions are available on Minnesota Housing's [HOPWA webpage](#). Upload application materials to the online [Multifamily Secure Upload Tool](#) no later than noon Central Time on Monday, December 4, 2023, to be considered for funding. Within the Secure Upload Tool, submit items to mhfa.app@state.mn.us. Upload required documents in the original format; do not convert the documents to PDF or other formats except for the signature page of the application. Review the [Upload Tool Instructions](#) for more information. Do not email or otherwise provide an application to Minnesota Housing staff email or other address.

NOTE: Submitted applications are considered final; late applications will not be accepted. Minnesota Housing may request additional information or clarification.

Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) Related Questions

This FAQ process is dedicated to addressing inquiries pertinent to the RFP. It's imperative to emphasize that at this stage, no alterations are planned for the Con Plan. The RFP's focus will remain on STRMU activities.

Minnesota's Con Plan is a collaborative effort involving Minnesota Housing, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and the Minnesota Department of Human Services. It is a comprehensive document that outlines the state's approach to housing and community development.

Furthermore, public participation is actively encouraged. The future Con Plan and Annual Action Plan will be open for public comments and suggestions. Notifications regarding the availability of these documents for public input are regularly communicated through the [Minnesota Housing website](#) and [HOPWA eNews publications](#).