To: Gatekeepers  
From: Homeless Services Section Staff  
Date: 9/16/2022  

Category: Funding Informational  

Update For:  
☒ Other: By and For Initiative, Native American Tribes of Oregon (BAFI-NATO) Funds & Timeline  

Message:  
Greetings,

We wanted to provide you with an update on the 2021-2023 BAFI-NATO funding. The intent of these funds is to support local programs designed to prevent and reduce homelessness in tribal communities throughout Oregon. As our OHCS team strives to lead with equity and racial justice as guiding values, it is critical that we recognize and better serve populations that have been historically underserved and disproportionately impacted by homelessness and housing instability. Over the last year, you have been working with OHCS staff to receive the funds set aside for this important work. There has been a significant delay in getting these contracts drafted, and we want to acknowledge the impact that delay has had on your communities. OHCS staffing capacity and procurement abilities have been strained over the last year as we stepped into a new, more expansive funder role supporting a wider range of investments that demonstrate the great need for homelessness response and prevention work across the state.

It is important to pause for a moment and for OHCS to take accountability for this delay, acknowledging that there have been multiple process challenges in getting these grants through the steps required in a timely fashion. Ultimately, our commitment of financial resources to your work means nothing without the administrative steps to get them to you for utilization. We apologize for the impact these delays and issues have had on you, your staff, and your clients.

Below are some important items and next steps to ensure that grant agreements are issued as soon as possible:

- On September 2nd, 2022, the Housing Stability Council (HSC) approved a package of grants that included this BAFI-NATO funding. In conjunction with the Department of Justice (DOJ) review currently underway, this will ensure that we receive final legal sufficiency approval.
- As far as a timeline goes: Over the next several weeks, we will work closely with DOJ to receive final internal approval on the tribal grant agreement drafts. We will then mobilize our Program team to get these drafts in your hands for your review within 30 days of our internal approval.
- There have been some questions and correspondence about utilizing these grant funds for the following purposes:
  1. Acquisition, Rehabilitation, Renovation, and Conversion activities: Overarching guidance can be found at this link: Acq./Reno/Rehab Guidance
  2. Please note: While the purchase of a Free Standing Temporary Shelter (FSTS) is allowed under the definition of Shelter Acquisition as an equipment purchase, it does call for a separate application to be completed: Free Standing Temporary Shelter App
If your organization has not met individually with our HMIS team, please contact Colt Sray
colt.sray@hcs.oregon.gov as soon as possible to schedule a meeting to discuss specifics related
to HMIS data and your project.

We will continue working to improve our internal processes, so that we can show up as a stronger and
more reliable partner in the days to come. We sincerely appreciate your patience and dedication to this
work. Please reach out to Judy Hui-Pasquini judy.hui-pasquini@hcs.oregon.gov or Colt Sray
colt.sray@hcs.oregon.gov with any questions or concerns, and have a great weekend!