

Yvette Ramirez

From: Edward Chien <echien@azdes.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Yvette Ramirez
Subject: Re: SFY21 COVID19 CSBG FUNDING

Hi Yvette, I reached out to OCS, and they asked these follow-up questions so they can evaluate whether the soccer field is allowable:

- Who is the owner of the property?
- Would the project significantly improve the value of the property?
- What is the extent of "permanent improvements", are there fixtures that will be added that cannot be removed? Please describe the aspects that are going to be permanent? Please note that the removal of derelict buildings can be considered a "permanent improvement".
- How much money would the entire project cost?
- Is this project in a low income community, will it benefit low income individuals and families?
- Would the state recommend approval of the project?
- Will this property be used to generate income?

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On Tue, Jul 28, 2020 at 10:27 AM Edward Chien <echien@azdes.gov> wrote:

Hi Yvette, let me investigate a little and get back to you. Construction is not generally allowed, but I need to verify whether completing a soccer field would be considered "construction." I also saw your other email and will respond.

Thanks,

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*Cochise Project
Winchester Heights*

On Tue, Jul 28, 2020 at 9:52 AM Yvette Ramirez <seacapyr@qwestoffice.net> wrote:

Good Morning Edward:

As you are aware, SEACAP has allocated \$148,000 of its COVID19 CSBG funding to be put back into the communities in our 4 counties. Each county would get approximately \$ 37,000 to go towards an organization/service that would benefit a community. I presented this to our Board of Directors at our July 16, 2020 Board teleconference meeting and they are super excited. The Board decided to allow the Board members from each county to designate where they would like the money to go. The Board members from Cochise have asked me to ask you if this money can be used to help complete a soccer field at the community center in Winchester Heights, Az. I have attached an article that explains how the Community Center was built and how the funding was acquired. SEACAP uses this community center to provide utility assistance, rental assistance, weatherization, as well as tax preparation, for its community members. The organization

that helped get these funds to build the Community Center is no longer involved in the maintenance of the center. As of 2 years ago, the community members themselves are responsible for the maintenance, improvements or any other work that may need to be done to keep the community center operational. When SEACAP was there in February 2020, the site manager informed us that the community is trying to find funding to complete the soccer field used by all the children and adults as a way to promote community health and safety. Is it possible to use the CSBG funds to assist this community in accomplishing this task. Hope to hear from you soon. Have a great rest of the week and stay safe!!

Yvette

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Yvette Ramirez

From: Edward Chien <echien@azdes.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:25 PM
To: Yvette Ramirez
Subject: Re: SFY21 COVID 19 CSBG Funding

Hi Yvette, CSBG allows for a lot of creativity. The CSBG Act prohibits construction and political activities, but other than that, the restrictions on CSBG are less related to what you *do* and more about how you *plan*. In other words, you have to do the community needs assessment and then work through how to address those needs via the strategic planning and CAP planning process. What comes out of that process could be almost anything.

For example, taking another look at your 2019 CNA, I see that "The number of slots in employment and training programs is reported to be grossly insufficient." CSBG could be used to subsidize on-the-job training programs so that individuals without work history/skills can have a realistic pathway to employment. I also see "Low income families struggle with transportation issues to get to work." CSBG could be used to set up van pools where SEACAP owns the vehicles, but they're available for low-income families to share to be able to get to work.

This is also an area where involving your community partners can make things really interesting. For example, I also notice in the CNA that rising cost of health insurance premiums is a major problem. What about establishing a healthcare co-op in southeastern Arizona? That's probably bigger than SEACAP can bite off by itself, but with a strong enough network of partners, maybe it could happen. The CSBG funds could be used to help lay the groundwork.

I am just throwing out some examples here; obviously you have a better sense than I do of what would be feasible and useful in your communities. The take-home message is that CSBG is very flexible. Since the COVID funds are a pretty good amount and also last through September 2022, I definitely encourage you to think big with them.

For best practices on planning community-level work, I recommend reaching out to Alicia Kenney at Wildfire. I believe she's been involved in a lot of regional and national workgroups recently that have been talking about this. As always, of course, we at DES are happy to talk things through, too.

Hope that helps?

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On Tue, Jul 28, 2020 at 10:06 AM Yvette Ramirez <seacapyr@qwestoffice.net> wrote:

Hi Edward:

Its me again. I forgot to include this in my previous email. Can you direct me or provide me with more information as to how the CSBG funds can be used in the community. I am not talking about direct vouchers, but to make an impact that the entire community may benefit from. Our Board of Directors are requesting more information as to the guidelines for these funds and I don't know where to go. This is the first time that SEACAP has ever been able to take CSBG dollars and invest them into the community that wasn't in

vouchers. SEACAP wants to ensure that wherever these funds go, that the community will be able to see the positive impact it made for them.

Yvette

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