

RFP Question & Answers

Question: Our organization is applying for a youth program. If the program falls under “public benefit” what is the process we have to go through for asking for verification, what information would we collect from the beneficiaries in order to meet the requirements of “making an effort”?

Answer: All grantees will have to obtain the necessary documentation to verify legal status in the SAVE database and certify that the information is accurate. Getting a copy of the birth certificate would be one way to document legal status. The Office of Community Development will work with your organization to enter the data into the database. (Page 4)

VERIFICATION OF LEGAL STATUS FOR ELIGIBILITY OF PUBLIC BENEFITS

In accordance with the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PROWRA), Section 214 of the Housing Act: 42 U.S. Code § 1436a and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Memorandum 25-03, subrecipients that are providing services and/or benefits to individuals and/or households that qualify for services based on their household income are required to utilize the SAVE database or an equivalent verification system approved by the federal government, to prevent federal public benefits from being provided to those are not lawfully present within the United States and are ineligible for receipt for federal public benefits.

The Systematic Alien Verification System for Entitlements (SAVE) database is available to grantees for the purposes of verifying legal status of program beneficiaries to receive federal public benefits. Subrecipients will be required to verify eligibility of all participants that are receiving any type of direct benefit with federal funding.

If your agency is awarded CDBG funding you will be responsible for obtaining the necessary documents to verify program beneficiaries' legal status in the SAVE database and certify that the information is accurate. The Office of Community Development staff will work with you at that time and register your entity into the system.

Programs whose beneficiaries are children under 18 will need to make an effort to verify legal status of participants, but it is understood that there may be minimal information available within the SAVE database regarding minors under the age of 18.

Programs that do not serve direct beneficiaries and qualify through an Area Benefit National Objective or that qualify under the emergency services exemption (i.e. food pantry programs, emergency shelter, etc.) are exempt from this verification requirement.

Question: Would a youth program at Gospel Power Church be eligible?

Answer: The City may not utilize these funds to support “religious activities”. If the youth program supports religious programming then these funds would not be eligible. (Page 7)

FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

The City of Springfield may not utilize CDBG funds to support "inherently religious" activities, including religious programming. Faith-based organizations that are 501c3 tax-exempt organizations are eligible to apply for CDBG funding solely for secular social service programming available to the public, as long as the programming meets all other CDBG requirements and does not require participants to engage in religious activity or involve exposure to proselytizing.

Question: Is there a maximum amount that an organization can apply for?

Answer: There is no maximum amount that an organization can apply for, however we receive a number of applications and public service activities are capped at 15%.

Question: Is one of the requirements that 51% of the participants in a proposed program be low and moderate income and from Springfield? We're thinking about applying in support of the low income families we serve in traditional and inclusions summer camps but in addition to Springfield families, we do serve families from neighboring communities as well.

Answer: At least 51% of the participants in the program have to come from low and moderate income households and have to be from Springfield. You can still serve the other families from other communities. They would not be counted towards the 51%.