

**Network Conference Call
October 22, 2020**

CSBG and CEAP CARES Funding

Q1: Will Subrecipients receive the left over CSBG CARES ACT funding? If so, when?

A: All CARES funds are out.

Q2: If we are meeting the CEAP CARES benchmarks in CEAP can we/should we concentrate on spending down the regular CEAP 2020 contract, even with those clients that qualify because of COVID-19?

A: For both CSBG and CEAP CARES funding, it is an internal decision as to how you will expend both the regular and CARES contracts. You will need to evaluate based on the remaining time and money your agency has left for each contract. The CARES contracts are due to run through 7/30/2021 and we do anticipate the funds ending at that time.

Q3: Will there be additional Regular CEAP 2020 funding available prior to the end of 2020?

A: There is a very small amount of \$21,000 that will be issued in an amendment.

Q4: So, when the CARES contract is up in 2021 and we possibly set up a client for the 6 or 7 months, can we use Regular CEAP for the remaining months to meet the needs of the client based on benefit level? In other words, may we use both regular and CARES funding for clients?

A: If client is eligible and has benefit remaining, it is allowable. Be sure to clearly document benefits and contracts used to ensure to remain within benefit allowance.

Q5: If client applied in 2020 and were given CARES CEAP, do they need to reapply for 2021 for remaining months or are they already income eligible? Or do we need a new 2021 application?

A: To maximize assistance and expenditures, benefit allowance based on calendar year is best. This allows you to pledge a client out in 2020 and then take a new application in 2021 and pledge through July 30, 2021.

Q6: If in 2021 we give them CARES CEAP and they have exhausted their allocation can the client apply for regular CEAP? Or are we not allowed to use 2 Grants?

A: Assistance is based on benefit allowance per program year, and Subrecipient should select which contract that you will use to serve a household. Once a client meets their maximum benefit, they are no longer eligible for additional assistance for that program year. You may not provide double benefit allowance with both regular and CARES contracts.

Q7: Will we be able to pay two utility bills per month in 2021 for UAC?

A: All current waivers/flexibilities remain in effect until rescinded by the Department.

Q8: Are there any anticipated changes from TDHCA/feds in the client/customer application for 2021 for CSBG or CEAP? To begin services quickly in January we need to make changes soon.

A: We have no anticipated changes and are unaware of any from the Feds.

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Q9: Regarding designing a new ABM for the CEAP Service Delivery Plan: Is there talk of using a standardized version?

A: There is talk, but we do not have any alternatives at this time. Each agency is responsible for collecting the appropriate kilowatt usage throughout the entire year for each dwelling type in order to compile their own ABM.

WAP

Q10: Is the approval for the DOE audit software the web base application?

A: No, the energy audit approval is for energy auditing in general to ensure our audit inputs align with the current rules which is required by DOE every five (5) years. Implementation of the web based NEAT/MHEA version is projected by PY22. The Department will forward information as it becomes available.

Q11: Has there been an increase in prices for material and labor since the last version of NEAT (2011). Measures are starting to not rank. Is NEAT being updated to account for the increase in prices (inflation) over time so items will continue to rank?

A: Unfortunately, calculations will not change much. Good business practices and procurement will be needed.

GENERAL

Q12: Is monitoring on the same schedule or has there been a delay?

A: Monitoring is on same schedule and are conducting desk reviews. Travel/onsite activities remain restricted.

Q13: Regarding City of Fort Worth's presentation---With the virtual appointments, are applications completed on your end or the client's.

A: Both: With IT Frontdesk, clients and staff have the ability to see what's still needed.