

## **CSBG Disaster Relief Supplemental Peer Group**

**December 19, 2019**

**Attendees:** Valarie Powell, NC; Jill Giles, NE; Leslie Taylor, CA; Toski Flemiester, OH; Gavin Reid, TX; Rita Gonzales-Garza, TX; Marshall Vogts, OK

### **Action Steps**

- State Members:
  - Send applications to Maribeth at NASCSP
  - Send written guidance received from OCS to Maribeth at NASCSP
  - Send any tools/resources to share with fellow members to Maribeth at NASCSP
  - Complete the doodlepoll to identify the best time for the next convening:
- NASCSP:
  - Compile list of questions from members to send to OCS
  - Develop portal to share applications, guidance, and resources for state members
  - Convene next meeting at the beginning of January

### **Goals of the Group**

- Facilitate peer learning
- Discuss questions, needs, opportunities, and challenges
  - Based on member questions and needs, develop requests for guidance from OCS
- Share best practices and ideas
- Identify action steps
- Identify how to respond to OCS requests collectively

### **Status Updates**

- All states on the call submitted their application for the first round of funds.
- All states on the call had T&TA calls with OCS (Seth and Roneika)
  - All states received written guidance from OCS in response to TTA calls.
    - All states to send written guidance received to Maribeth to post on the portal.

### **Areas of Concern**

- Needs Assessment: several states expressed the need for additional information and support to conduct the needs assessment to distribute funds.
- OCS has not provided an overall timeline with deliverables identified for the grant with anticipated due dates for the various phases and stages.
- Details on how to document eligibility are not available.

- Not having definitive budget numbers proves challenging, as state offices and local agencies are unable to adequately plan.
  - What is the timeline for states to have definitive budget numbers?

### **Questions for OCS**

- **Grant Process**
  - Can OCS provide an overall timeline with deliverables and due dates to aid states in administration planning? Desired deliverable due dates/milestones include:
    - Application due dates for Phase 2 & Phase 3 funding
    - Planned release schedule of funds
  - Can OCS provide a timeline for when definitive budget numbers will be made available to state offices?
  - Can OCS provide details or a draft application for phase two funds, in advance of the official Action Transmittal?
    - This will allow states and agencies if appropriate to begin working on the information required for this application.
  - OCS has indicated that states will be required to use a “modified version” of the annual report. Can OCS provide a copy of this “modified” annual report?
- **Eligibility**
  - How should eligible entities verify that a person has not received FEMA Assistance?
    - What kind of documentation is required?
    - Could OCS coordinate with FEMA nationally to enter into a data sharing agreement, allowing state offices and eligible entities to receive verification of FEMA assistance directly from FEMA?
  - How should eligible entities verify that a person has not received reimbursement from insurance?
    - What kind of documentation is required?
- **State Administration**
  - How should state offices handle if local agencies do not want to take funding?
    - Some local agencies who would receive small allocations have indicated they do not intend to apply for the funds.
- **Monitoring**
  - How will OCS conduct monitoring and oversight of these funds?
    - Will monitoring be separate from regular CSBG monitoring?
      - What will monitoring look like? Can OCS provide a copy of a potential monitoring tool?
    - Will OCS conduct monitoring of local entities?

### **State Notes**

- **Needs Assessments:**
  - **Texas** plans to use FEMA IA data, along with data from the state disaster office.
  - **Ohio** has not finalized the needs assessment process yet.
  - **North Carolina** plans to use FEMA IA data, state emergency management data, along with local agency data.

- **California** pulled together local agencies to develop the needs assessment process. California plans to use FEMA IA data, local agency input on unmet needs, and their CSBG distribution formula.
- **Nebraska** plans to use FEMA IA data.