

**Student Homelessness Prevention Pilot NOFA  
Questions & Answers  
11/18/24**

Q: For the purposes of this Notice of Funding Availability, is Maine Indian Education considered an eligible School Administrative Unit?

A: Yes.

Q: Can a nonprofit service provider apply for this funding and implement this project on its own, without a sponsoring school district?

A: No, the only eligible applicants are school districts, so the district would have to apply and identify the nonprofit as the subcontractor.

Q: Can you provide some details on how a district can subcontract with a nonprofit organization?

A: A district can subcontract with a service provider for housing navigation and stability services. The grant agreement would be between MaineHousing and the district and we would need to have a copy of the MOU/contract with the subcontractor. The district would be ultimately responsible for the utilization of and reporting on the funding.

Q: Could a district subcontract with a nonprofit for services and also hire a full-time position for the district?

A: The idea is for a district to either hire a housing navigator or subcontract with a service provider to provide housing navigation, but not both. As funding can be used for both the position and flexible funding directed to families to prevent and/or resolve their housing emergency, we want to maximize the positive impact on families served.

Q: Is there a maximum amount of funding applicants may request?

A: There is no identified maximum, but the total funding allocated to MaineHousing was \$2 million for the pilot, which is meant to be implemented statewide.

Q: How long would the pilot run?

A: The contracts will be for one year, with the possibility of a no cost extension to completely expend the funds allocated. As MaineHousing was only awarded a total of \$2 million for the pilot, we expect all the funds to be expended in one year.

Q: This Notice states that a goal of the program is to engage with landlords and property managers to increase participant access to housing units and to increase the number of units available to participating families. Does this mean convincing landlords to bring more units to market? How does MaineHousing envision an SAU or service provider can accomplish this?

A: Part of Housing Navigation and Stability Services is engaging with landlords and working with them to understand the benefits of renting to families who have the support of organizations that assist them in remaining stably housed. Many landlords are hesitant to rent to households with rental assistance and other types of financial support or to households with poor tenant

references. When landlords realize that an organization is there to assist them if problems arise in a tenancy they may be more agreeable to renting to that household. There are many successful examples of organizations around the state who have created networks of landlords who regularly rent to households they are supporting.