

2021 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
American Rescue Plan Supplemental Funding
(2021 FVPSA ARP)
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Question: Who is eligible to apply for FVPSA ARP funds administered through OCJS?

Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 10407(a)(2)(B)(iii), the state will emphasize the support of effective community-based projects that are carried out by nonprofit, private organizations and that do the following:

- I. have the operation of shelters for victims of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence, and their dependents as their primary purpose; or
- II. provide counseling, advocacy, and self-help services to victims of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence, and their dependents.

2. Question: What is the purpose of the FVPSA ARP funds?

The purpose of the FVPSA ARP funds is to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. While applicants have the flexibility to determine which services best support the needs of children and families experiencing family violence, domestic violence and dating violence **all line items within an application's budget must be clearly linked to COVID-19 prevention, preparation and response.**

3. Question: What is the length of funding for the FVPSA ARP funds?

Applicants may apply for 18 months of funding, operating from February 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.

4. Question: Does the FVPSA ARP grant program require a match contribution?

No, match is not required for this funding program.

5. Question: Has OCJS set a cap on the amount of funds that can be requested?

No, OCJS has not set a maximum dollar amount that applicants can request, however it is expected that budgets reflect reasonable and allowable costs and can be expended within the 18-month project period.

OCJS expects to distribute just over \$3.9 million to subgrantees through the FVPSA ARP supplemental funding program and the number of applications received and the availability of funds are a few of the factors that influence the number and size of awards. During a typical FVPSA funding cycle the average award is \$48,000.00.

6. Question: Does current use of funds language in FVPSA include basic needs?

Yes, per FVPSA legislation at [42 U.S.C. § 10408\(b\)](#) FVPSA funds can be used to support the operation and administration of shelter and supportive services, including, but not limited to:

- Staffing
- Shelter utilities
- Food and toiletries for shelter
- Rental costs of the shelter facility
- Supplies for the shelter
 - Including supplies for survivors entering shelter such as:
 - Clothing
 - Toiletries, etc.*
- Transportation (**excludes vehicle purchases/leases-refer to question 18**)
- Developing safety plans
- Individual and group counseling and peer support groups
- Training, technical assistance, prevention, and outreach to increase awareness of domestic violence and dating violence
- Services for children exposed to domestic violence
- Advocacy, case management services, and information and referral services

*Furniture costs to support the operation and administration of shelter and supportive services are allowable expenses as long as justification is linked to COVID-19 prevention, preparation and response.

7. Question: What is the definition of shelter?

The definition of Shelter in FVPSA Regulations at [45 CFR §1370.2](#) includes the provision of temporary refuge in conjunction with supportive services in compliance with applicable State or Tribal law or regulations and includes:

- Emergency and immediate shelter
 - Housing provision
 - Rental Subsidies
 - Temporary refuge or lodging in individual units such as apartments
 - Not required to be owned, operated or leased by the program
- Safe homes
- Hotel or motel vouchers **OCJS will not approve requests for hotel/motel needs. Refer to question 10.**
- Must also provide comprehensive supportive services and may include meals
- Only making a referral to shelter does not count as provision of shelter
- Temporary refuge is not transitional or permanent housing
- If State or Tribal laws conflict, recipients of FVPSA funding must follow the definition that provides the most expansive housing accessibility

While Rental subsidies are included in the definition, per [42 U.S.C. § 10408\(d\)](#), FVPSA funds may not be used as a direct payment to any victim, thus the shelter program would have to pay the cost of rent directly to the landlord. **OCJS funds cannot be used in support**

of security deposits. Refer to question 9. ODVN's Relocation & Safety Program pays for security deposits. [Click here for more information.](#)

8. Question: Can FVPSA ARP funds be paid directly to victims?

No, funds cannot be paid directly to victims.

9. Question: Can FVPSA ARP funds be used to support moving costs for victims?

No, funds cannot be used in support of moving costs for victims. However, **ODVN's Relocation & Safety Program will pay for victims' moving costs. [Click here for more information.](#)**

10. Question: Can applicants request funding in support of rental assistance?

While Rental subsidies are included in the definition, per [42 U.S.C. § 10408\(d\)](#), FVPSA funds **may not be used as a direct payment to any victim**, thus the shelter program would have to pay the cost of rent directly to the landlord.

OCJS **will only** approve FVPSA ARP funds to be used to pay the first month's rent and funds must be paid directly to the landlord. **OCJS will not allow funding to be in support of security deposits. ODVN's Relocation & Safety Program pays for security deposits. [Click here for more information.](#)**

11. Question: If hotel/motel costs are allowable at the federal level then why is OCJS not allowing applicants to request hotel/motel reimbursements?

OCJS provides funding to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), the state domestic violence coalition, to coordinate hotel/motel needs and therefore applicants should directly contact ODVN in support of hotel/motel funding requests. Refer to the ODVN website at www.odvn.org for more information.

12. Question: To reduce risk of exposure to COVID-19 can we use funds in support of renovation and construction for our facility?

No, FVPSA ARP funds cannot be used for renovation or construction. This includes even seemingly minor renovations as painting or replacing carpet.

13. Question: Can we use FVPSA ARP funds in support of facility maintenance costs?

Yes, funds can be used in support of minor maintenance up-keep costs as long as it cannot be interpreted as being equal to renovation or construction.

14. Question: Can we use FVPSA ARP funds to support hiring personnel?

Yes, funds can be used to hire personnel as long as justification is clearly linked to COVID-19 prevention, preparation and response efforts.

15. Question: Can funds be requested to support hazard/pandemic pay for personnel?

Yes, hazard/pandemic pay for personnel can be requested, however OCJS has set a limit. A one-time payment of \$500 per position is allowable for the 18-month period. Only staff who work directly with survivors are eligible for hazard/pandemic pay. Applicants must have a hazard/pandemic pay policy on file and available for OCJS review.

16. Question: Can funds be used to implement remote and technology related services such as text and web chat?

Yes, adding text and web chat systems to increase the ways survivors can request help are allowable expenses.

17. Question: Can funds be used for equipment purchases such as desk top computers and laptops?

Yes, funds can be used in support of equipment purchases as long as the purchase is clearly linked to COVID-19 prevention, preparation and response.

OCJS has capped the purchase of desk top computers and laptops at a maximum of \$1,000 each. If software/hardware and/or other components are needed then these must be listed as separate line-items.

18. Question: Can funds be used in support of travel and mileage reimbursements?

Yes, funds can be used to reimburse travel and mileage however applicants must ensure that reimbursement costs follow the rate guidance below:

- Lodging and meal per diem rates cannot exceed the rates set by the federal Government Services Administration. The rates can be found at <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>.
- Mileage rates cannot exceed the rates set by Ohio Budget Management. These rate can be found at <https://obm.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/obm/areas-of-interest/agency-overview/obm-travel-rule/obm-travel-rule>.

Applicants must have a travel policy on file and available for OCJS review.

19. Question: Can funds be used to purchase vehicles?

No, OCJS will not approve requests to purchase/lease vehicles.

20. Question: Does the FVPSA ARP application require objectives?

No, OCJS has developed a streamlined application process. Applicants will be required to complete a title page, narrative form and budget forms. The narrative form must include comprehensive responses to the bullet points listed on page 12 of the FVPSA ARP request for proposal.

21. Question: Will we be required to submit a progress report if we receive an award through the FVPSA ARP supplemental funding program?

Yes, any agency receiving an award through the FVPSA ARP supplemental funding program is required to submit progress reports. OCJS will provide updated reporting requirements during the pre-award conditions process.