

GHC RFP 2025-01 FAQs (updated 5/8/2025)

What is this funding opportunity?

This funding opportunity was a budget appropriation from the Public Law 37-125 (FY25 Budget Act) Chapter XI, Section 8, which earmarked \$500,000 from the general funds for the Guam Homeless Coalition through the Department of Public Health and Social Services. Of this appropriation, the amount of \$428,000 will be sub-granted to the Guam Homeless Coalition to carry out specific program aimed at reducing homelessness and supporting the homeless population such as providing shelter, food, and medical services. Of that total amount, \$235,000 is made available for mini grants to the member organizations of GHC to carry out programs specific to the priority service areas.

What are the priority service areas?

The GHC has identified that these are the priority service areas to be funded as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Public Health and Social Services:

1. Weekend Emergency Shelter for individuals who enter homelessness on Fridays, providing access to safe shelter over the weekend, including food and medical care.
2. Reentry Program or Housing/Shelter Program for individuals re-entering society from incarceration to include food and medical care.
3. Rapid Response Shelter Program for serving individuals who were displaced due to encampment interventions or other displacement factors, including food and medical care.
4. Homeless Services Program – these are mini grants for GHC members to provide direct services which addresses shelter, food, and medical care.

Can one organization apply to one or more of these priority service areas?

Yes. One organization can apply to one or more priority service areas. It can be included in one application as a multi-service program proposal, or it can be submitted as separate proposals. However, the program budgets must be separate if the organization is targeting two different priority service areas.

What are the expected outcomes?

By utilizing these funds, the GHC aims to achieve these outcomes:

1. Reduced homelessness among the elderly and disabled populations, with improved connections to permanent housing.
2. Sustained feeding efforts for street homelessness and expansion of service outreach.
3. Enhanced engagement and reintegration efforts for individuals in encampments.
4. Increased connections to public benefits and successful transitions to housing.
5. Strengthened collaboration between local agencies and stakeholders, creating a more integrated homelessness service system.

Who is eligible?

All current members of the GHC who are in good standing. Applicants must be a locally registered 501c3 nonprofit entity with the capacity to implement services outlined in the priority areas.

How much is the award?

A total of \$235,000 is available. Award levels will be based on the Priority Service Areas or Program Type. Multiple awards may be issued based on the quality and scope of proposals received.

What are the award funding levels?

This will be based on the Priority Service Areas:

Weekend Emergency Shelter Program will be awarded a max of \$25,000.

Reentry program will be awarded a max of \$75,000.

Rapid Response Shelter Program will be awarded up to \$25,000 per award. A maximum of 4 awards are anticipated.

Homeless Services Program will be awarded up to \$7,000 per award. A maximum of 5 awards are anticipated.

What are considered eligible and ineligible costs?

The languages in P.L. 37-125 and the MOU between DPHSS and GHC are not specific to what's allowable and unallowable. However, the proposed programs must align with the priority service areas which would also address shelter, food, and medical care for the homeless population. The GHC has also identified some ineligible costs that are not normally approved by the federal government, Department of Housing and Urban Development, which also oversees all the housing efforts on Guam. The ineligible costs are activities not directly related to providing shelter, food, or medical care; mortgage payments; renovations and landscaping; property, equipment or vehicle purchases; legal fees for retainers; and off-island travel expenses.

What are the allowable and/or expenses covered under “medical care”?

DPHSS language in our MOU and the language in the law does not prohibit or exclude any type of medical service. However, all expenses of medical care must be related to the provision of housing or assisting a homeless constituent.

Is indirect cost an allowable expense for this grant?

GHC will allow a de minimus as per the federal guideline unless the applicant has a federally negotiated cost, which then a proof of the approved negotiated cost directly from the federal granting agency must be attached to the application/proposal when submitting.

Organizations intending to apply for two different program types, does the budget for each program type need to be separate or can we combine them?

If an organization's proposal is responding to two different priority service areas or program types; then two separate budgets must be included. GHC intends to track the budgets for each project directly and not just one overall agency program.

For organizations applying to two different program types, does the budget for each program type need to be separate or can it be combined?

Budgets must be separated for each program type for budget tracking purposes.

Does this grant require HMIS to be utilized? If so, will the cost for HMIS be an allowable expense?

Yes. The DPHSS MOU with GHC does not restrict the use of HMIS or expensing HMIS in the program budget.

When is the application due?

Applications are due on Friday, May 9th at 4:00pm via email at guamhomelesscoalition@gmail.com. Applicants must enter into the subject line: Response to GHC-RFP-2025-01.

Applications or Proposals must be sent via PDF format and must include the name of the submitting organization in the file name. For example: GuamHomelessCoalition@gmail.com.

Can we utilize these funds to serve individuals who are currently receiving assistance through ESG or other grant programs?

Yes, with strict compliance against duplication of benefits. Under HUD and 2 CFR §200.403(d), costs must not be charged to multiple funding sources for the same purpose. If a client is receiving ESG-funded rental assistance or services, you may use additional funds only to cover *needs that are unmet* by ESG. Additionally, the Guam Department of Administration and Department of Housing and Urban Development (GHURA) require documentation to ensure services are complementary, not overlapping.

Example: A client receiving ESG rental assistance may receive transportation or hygiene supplies through other grant funds, if not covered under ESG.

Are these funds intended to supplement, or can they overlap with other existing funding sources?

Funds are intended to supplement but not duplicate services funded through other sources. Federal laws, specifically 2 CFR §200.405, emphasize cost allocability and consistency. Overlap is allowed if:

- The costs are pro-rated and properly allocated between grants;
- Each fund covers distinct services or timeframes;
- The funding is not used as a replacement unless authorized under Guam's local grant agreements or MOU, which in this case it is not authorized.

Guam's Consolidated Plan also supports a layered funding approach to address service gaps in shelter and housing services, so in this RFP a layered funding approach in the program budget proposals can also be considered.

Are there any restrictions on using these funds for temporary shelter costs if those costs are also eligible under ESG? Could these funds potentially be used to cover gaps if there are delays or unavailability of ESG funds?

Yes, these funds may be used for temporary shelter in cases where ESG is delayed, unavailable, or capped, consistent with HUD guidance on ESG (24 CFR Part 576). To comply with federal and local policies, your documentation should show:

- ESG funds have been exhausted or are not immediately available;

- The service is time-sensitive and cannot wait for ESG reimbursement;
- You are not billing both programs for the same expense period.

Under Guam Procurement Law (5 GCA §5001 et seq.), any use of government funds must show justification for emergency use or alternate coverage.

If our program needs exceed the stated maximum funding amount, is it possible to apply for additional funding or submit multiple proposals?

You may submit a single, scalable proposal that outlines core services with options for expansion, allowing for partial or tiered funding. You may also submit separate proposals addressing the specific targeted priority service area.

Could you provide examples of "other displacement factors" that would qualify under the Rapid Response Program?

GHC aligns its definition of homelessness with HUD as outlined in 24 CFR §91. In accordance with HUD's criteria and Guam's Homeless Strategic Plan, the following displacement factors are recognized as qualifying conditions under Category 1 (literally homeless) and Category 4 (fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence) definitions of homelessness:

- Displacement caused by natural disasters, such as Typhoon Mawar, which render housing uninhabitable;
- Condemnation or code enforcement actions initiated by the Department of Public Works (DPW) or Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA);
- Eviction due to domestic violence, threats of violence, or other safety-related causes;
- Loss of shared housing resulting from overcrowding or family conflict, leading to housing instability or homelessness;
- Health-related displacement, including exposure to unsafe living conditions such as mold, vermin infestations, or structural damage;
- Displacement due to government-led actions, including street sweeps or encampment relocations conducted by any government and/or law-enforcement agency.

All displacement incidents must be appropriately documented and substantiated to demonstrate eligibility under the applicable HUD homeless definition category.

In the event that full funding requests cannot be met, will partial funding be considered?

Yes, partial awards are a common practice in Guam-administered HUD and local grants. Programs must:

- Clearly prioritize budget line items as *essential vs. scalable*;
- Describe how partial funding would impact services and outcomes;
- Be prepared to submit a revised budget if partially awarded.

Under 2 CFR §200.301 (performance measurement) and Title 5, Chapter 4 of the Guam Code Annotated (GHC), you'll still be responsible for reporting outcomes aligned with reduced funding levels.