FY24 SIG Field Demonstration Project - Questions and Answers

Q: If you received SIG Field Demonstration Funding in July, can you apply now?

A: Yes, COAs who received funding in a prior round of SIG funding may also submit a proposal for this RFP.

Q: What is the October 18th deadline?

A: October 18th by 4pm is the deadline to submit the Intent to Bid form. Proposals for which no Intent to Bid form was submitted cannot be considered for funding. The Intent to Bid form is non-binding.

Q: Does the modernization of the senior center include furniture?

A: The proposal should state how the furniture will be conducive to the type of support older adults need (i.e. chairs with arms that provide support to an older person so they can safely stand up) and how it will benefit the population served by the COA.

Q: Is vehicle acquisition allowed under the transportation category?

A: Yes. Also, MassDOT has announced the schedule for the FY24 [**Community Transit Grant Program**](https://www.mass.gov/community-transit-grant-program) vehicle cycle that provides funding for purchase of vehicles.

Q: Can you explain category "C" under caregiver respite services a little more?

A: This funding will provide caregiver respite financial assistance for person-centered respite provided by a friend, relative, neighbor, etc. or to local respite services providers/organizations for older adults and their caregivers. For reference, an example of a past Field Demonstration Project that provided caregiver respite scholarships can be found [**here**](https://mcoaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Sandwich-MCOA-Field-Demonstration-Grant-Report-FINAL-1.docx)**.**

Q: If you have received monies from other grants for renovations but it doesn't quite cover the costs, could we still apply for Senior Center modernization to be ADA compliant for recreational space?

A: Yes, SIG funds can be used to augment other funding sources that don’t cover the entire project cost.

Q: Are the project areas weighted? Meaning, is there a % of the total awards split? e.g., 10% for transportation, 20% for caregiver respite, etc.

A: No, they are not weighted. Ultimately, funding allocated to each project area will be determined based on the identified need evidenced in the proposals.

Q: Would the SIG provide funds for salaries i.e.: Transportation Coordinator/scheduler

A: Yes, salaries and fringe benefits (capped at 30% of salary) are allowable costs.

Q: We are looking at updating our audio-visual equipment that is 14 years old to improve the hybrid experience for those at home. We have received some quotes on the project, and it is more than what we have funding for. This funding would help pay for the project. Can we use this funding in addition to other funds we have to cover the project.

A: Yes, this is an allowable expense.

Q: Will this presentation be available for viewing online?

A: Yes, it is available for viewing [here](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/9N2bn-R3fkBZdVV9G_9tImTX2_R34C_1pdsvAgcNcbaSW0lp-H8TRtwZ3fmcU50bF6DhYYSI3WG1aaWF.NyN7ylj431O_I8RC?canPlayFromShare=true&from=my_recording&startTime=1695841651000&pwd=lfeZM1tlsoTFA8xLbluFtpwhyQbRLSo6&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fus06web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FloLGKQj21cPBjN-ClTdMjKrDSnilsd8wtIBeCWEFtQFMb0IuJgShKGyczT7kuHuJ.Ul-ZCD_Gs9En0GRX%3FstartTime%3D1695841651000%26pwd%3DlfeZM1tlsoTFA8xLbluFtpwhyQbRLSo6).

Q: If you received funding previously for outreach and marketing "talk of the town" can you apply again specifically to expand language capacity to reach non-English speaking older adult population?

A: Yes, this would be eligible for funding. All proposals should demonstrate how funding will help to build inclusivity (around languages, cultures, or disabilities).

Q: If a caregiver needs a break desperately, the respite grant can pay someone to take care of the loved one while the caregiver can go away to take a break?

A: Yes, this is an allowable expense.

Q:Would new computers fall under the “modernization” aspect?

A: Yes, allowable costs under this project area include “hardware/software to allow for more accurate and efficient data tracking, integrate technology to enhance virtual and/or hybrid connections for homebound older adults” so this would be eligible.

Q: If we have received funding for a renovation, should this amount be included in the budget?

A: Yes, additional funding sources that are being leveraged should be included in the budget.

Q: Is there a minimum grant request in any of the categories?

A: No, there is no minimum request. Based on your needs, you may submit a proposal that is lower than the maximum grant amount within the specific project area.

Q: As a tool for tracking important data, we are looking to upgrade our My Senior Center program.  Is this a project that would be considered?

A: Yes, the Senior Center Modernization category includes “hardware/software to allow for more accurate and efficient data tracking”, so that would be an appropriate request.

Q: If I submit the intent to bid but the category changes and I have not checked that box, will that mean I cannot submit a proposal in that unchecked category?

A: Yes, you should indicate on the Intent to Bid form which categories you intend to submit a proposal for, as we can only consider applications for which that specific category was selected. Please remember that Intents to Bid are not binding in anyway.