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From: FVPSA State Administrators <FVPSA-STATE@LIST.NIH.GOV> on behalf of Orsinger, Rachel (ACF) <Rachel.Orsinger@ACF.HHS.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 12:26 PM
To: FVPSA-STATE@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: UPDATED GUIDANCE: Vehicle Purchases with FVPSA CARES Act funds

Dear FVPSA Formula Grantees,

We have received guidance that the inclusion of a prohibition on vehicle purchases in the program materials for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program's Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) supplemental funding was in error. As such, we are writing to inform you that vehicle purchases are an allowable expense, with prior approval, for your CARES Act supplemental funding.

This supplemental funding comes through provisions of the CARES Act, which was signed into law on March 27, 2020. Through the CARES Act, the FVPSA Program received \$45 million in supplemental funding for formula grantees and \$2 million in supplemental funding for the National Domestic Violence Hotline. This funding was intended to provide flexibility in how your agency s prevents, prepares for, and responds to the COVID-19 public health emergency while addressing the evolving needs of domestic violence survivors and local domestic violence programs within your community. Many communities have shared with us that vehicle purchases have been an important component of their plans to shift to a mobile advocacy service delivery model in order to increase their capacity to have flexibility and continuity of services during the pandemic.

If you are interested in using unspent CARES Act funding for a vehicle purchase, please contact your federal program officer as soon as possible to begin the process of requesting prior approval from the Office of Grants Management. Given the prior approval requirement for this (or any other equipment purchase over \$5000), it is essential that you leave time for this request to be processed prior to the September 30, 2021 deadline to spend funds. For more information about requirements and reporting around such purchases, please see the ACF Tangible Personal Property Guidance at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/tangible-personal-property>. Please note that all usual FVPSA requirements continue to apply for vehicle purchases.

Please note that the project period for this supplemental funding for the States, Tribes, and Coalitions expires September 30, 2021, with no option for extension. If you are concerned that you do not have a plan to fully spend down CARES Act funds by the September 30, 2021 deadline, please contact your federal program officer as soon as possible to discuss options and make a plan.

Thank you for all the work you do!
Rachel

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