

COLD CHAIN GRANTS FOR EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE (CCG)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

This FAQ focuses primarily on questions for prime applicants who apply directly to AMS under the published Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and who are proposing to operate a subaward program for eligible subaward applicants. **Entities aiming to apply for equipment grants under this program should NOT apply to AMS under this NOFO. Instead, they will apply to the selected prime recipient under a subaward opportunity to come later.** An initial subaward FAQ is forthcoming following the competitive selection of the prime recipient(s).

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PRIME RECIPIENT AND A SUBAWARD GRANT RECIPIENT?

A: The Prime recipient for the CCG program is responsible for conducting a competitive grant review and selection process to issue subawards, subawards monitoring, and overall management of the CCG program. Subaward recipients will later apply directly to a Prime recipient's funding opportunity and if selected, their subawards will be awarded and managed by the Prime recipient as they conduct project activities.

Q: WHAT IS THE CCG DEFINITION OF "BROAD, RELEVANT GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA"?

A: Prime applicants should articulate their ability to address the specific issue, problem, or need across a large geographic area (state, regional or national in scope) that ensures a wide range of eligible entities have the ability to apply for CCG funds to provide nutrition assistance to more Americans nationwide.

AMS will award 1-4 grants based on the pool of prime applicants and their proposed outreach and implementation plans, aiming to provide broad coverage across the U.S. through the program overall.

Q: DOES THE CCG PROGRAM REQUIRE COST SHARING?

A: The Prime recipient does **not** have a cost-share requirement. CCG subaward recipients will be required to provide a 10% cost share in the form of cash contributions.

Q: HOW WILL APPLICANTS KNOW WHO WAS SELECTED AS PRIME RECIPIENTS AND WHEN WILL THE SUBAWARD PROCESS BECOME AVAILABLE?

A: AMS will work with the selected Prime recipient(s) who will publish the Request for Applications (RFA) process in calendar year 2027. This information will also be posted on the [CCG website](#).

PRIME ELIGIBILITY

Q: CAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS APPLY TO BE PRIME RECIPIENTS?

A: Eligible prime applicants must be nonprofit organizations that meet the criteria outlined within the NOFO. Local governments and/or tribal organizations that do not meet this criteria are not eligible to apply.

Q: ARE NONPROFITS WITH A TAX EXEMPTION CODE OTHER THAN A 501(C)(3) ELIGIBLE TO BE A PRIME RECIPIENT?

A: Eligible prime recipients must be nonprofit organizations with a state or federal 501(c)(3).

Q: DO PRIME APPLICANTS HAVE TO BE AN IRS TAX EXEMPT NONPROFIT TO BE ELIGIBLE?

A: Yes, Prime applicants must be nonprofit corporations, organizations, or institutions. This may include charitable organizations, private foundations, and other organizations with state or federal IRS 501(c)(3) status.

Q: CAN AN ORGANIZATION APPLY TO BE A PRIME RECIPIENT AND LATER ALSO APPLY TO BE A SUBRECIPIENT?

A: No, Prime recipient(s) may not be awarded a subaward under their own awards or another entity's prime award.

PRIME APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Q: ARE PRIME RECIPIENTS ABLE TO SUB-CONTRACT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CCG PROGRAM TO ANOTHER ENTITY?

A: No, an eligible applicant must be able to demonstrate capacity to implement and manage a competitive subaward program, this includes competitive application solicitation, application review, award, oversight, reporting, and other requirements as specified in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

Q: CAN A SMALLER NONPROFIT PARTICIPATE AS A FORMAL PARTNER OR COLLABORATOR IN AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY A MORE EXPERIENCED PRIME APPLICANT?

A: Yes, it is allowable for organizations to collaborate and partner as long as the prime applicant is an eligible entity and the applicant is clear on the roles and responsibilities of each partnering organization.

Q: CAN A PRIME RECIPIENT MAKE A SUBAWARD TO AN ENTITY WITHIN THEIR ORGANIZATION?

A: It depends. For example, subaward applicants with direct relationships to the Prime recipient must be competitively reviewed and selected in the same manner as outside entities. Further, as described in Section 3.3.2 the AMS [Conflict of Interest Policy](#), recipient(s) must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, in writing, to AMS. This includes organizational conflicts of interest relating to relationships with a parent company, partner organization, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, shared or overlapping governance structure, or other relationship between or among the applicant and its partners and collaborators. These relationships will be subject to AMS review and approval.

Q: HOW DOES MY ORGANIZATION INCLUDE AND PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON A COMPETITIVE SUBAWARD PROCESS IN ITS APPLICATION?

A: Prime applicants should characterize how they would implement a competitive program and distribute subaward grant funds if selected for award. This could include plans on how they will develop their RFA and apply the subaward priorities that are referenced in section 3.3.11 of the CCG NOFO; outreach to notify eligible subaward entities of the opportunity; the geographic area; the review and selection process, including the assessment rubric for selection; how the subawards will be administered; and monitoring and oversight plans.

Q: CAN THE PRIME USE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS TO PROVIDE STIPENDS TO EXTERNAL PANEL REVIEWERS?

A: Yes, Prime recipients can allocate funds to support stipends to recruit qualified external reviewers for their competitive review and selection process. Prime applicants should include details as to how they plan to conduct the competitive subapplicant review and selection process, including panel reviewer selection and compensation, within their submitted application.

Q: CAN PRIME APPLICANTS EDIT THE APPLICATION NARRATIVE TEMPLATE?

A: No, the Application Narrative Template is standardized for all applicants to help streamline the application review and information management processes.

COMPETITIVE SUBAWARD REQUIREMENTS

Q: CAN SUBRECIPIENT FUNDS BE USED TO MAKE SUBAWARDS, E.G. MINI GRANTS?

A: No, it is unallowable for subaward recipients to issue subawards.

Q: CAN THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNTS FOR SUBAWARD GRANTS BE ADJUSTED BY THE PRIME?

A: No, the required subaward funding amount thresholds are set within section 3.3.3 of the NOFO and cannot be adjusted.

UNIQUE ENTITY ID - SAM.GOV

Q: DO PRIME RECIPIENTS NEED AN ACTIVE SAM.GOV REGISTRATION TO RECEIVE CCG PAYMENTS?

A: Yes. Prime entities must have an active SAM registration. If the UEI is showing inactive in SAM.gov, then payments will not be processed. It is the responsibility of the organization to contact SAM.gov to renew the registration annually.

Q: DO APPLICANTS HAVE TO PAY TO OBTAIN A UEI IN SAM.GOV?

A: No, there is no cost to register in SAM.gov. If you receive notification on having to pay to renew your account beware that it is likely a SCAM and should be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Q: DO SUBAWARD APPLICANTS NEED A UNIQUE ENTITY ID (UEI) IN SAM.GOV?

A: Yes, they are required to obtain a UEI in SAM.gov prior to being issued a subaward.

Last updated: 09/11/26