Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot Application

Winter 2021

Application Due Date: January 8, 2020

VIRGINIA DHCD

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Background

- Reducing evictions has been a priority of Governor Northam and the Virginia General Assembly before and during COVID-19.

- In 2018, The Eviction Lab, built by sociologist Matthew Desmond, revealed that Virginia is home to five of the top ten evicting cities in America.

- In the 2020 Special Session, $3.3 million was included in the budget for the Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP).

- The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) was directed to design and implement the pilot.

- DHCD will award $3 million in grant funds available for a February 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021 contract period.

Goals of the Pilot

- To create a local/regional coordinated systems approach to effectively prevent evictions.

- To divert evictions once the household has received an unlawful detainer.

- To ensure households have early access to resources to stabilize their housing situations.

Eviction Prevention vs. Diversion

- **Eviction prevention** services are provided to households *before* they are issued unlawful detainers when courts get involved.

- Examples of prevention services include:
  - Short-term financial assistance
  - Case-management to connect household with housing stabilization resources

- **Eviction diversion** services are provided *after* households are issued unlawful detainers.

- Examples of diversion services include:
  - Assisting with the negotiation process between landlords and tenants, outlining payment plans

Eligible Applicants

- Units of local government

- Non-profit organizations

- Must be registered in CAMS

Applicant Requirements

- Registered Centralized Application and Management System (CAMS) profile

- Relationships between all partners involved in project must be clearly articulated

- No outstanding issues

Pilot Program Design

- Lived experience
  - Programs must provide opportunity for an individual with lived experience to be involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the local VERP project.

- Targeted assistance
  - All grantees are required to adopt an assessment tool to identify those households most at risk of housing instability.
  - Grantees must have clear policies and procedures that specify household eligibility and program approach, including type and amount of assistance based on assessment scores.

Eligible Activities

- Housing Financial Assistance
  - Examples: short-term rent assistance, rent and utility arrears, moving expenses

- Stabilization Support Services
  - Examples: work supports, legal services

- Case Management and Supportive Services
  - Examples: case management, housing counseling, landlord outreach and negotiation

- Administrative Costs
  - Examples: data collection and reporting, obtaining program audits

Geographic Targeting

The VERP is available statewide. Applicants from the following Virginia localities will be given a scoring preference because of their high eviction rates and/or their inclusion in the General Assembly created pilot diversion program:

- Chesapeake
- Danville
- Hampton
- Norfolk
- Newport News
- Petersburg
- Richmond

DHCD will fund only one grantee per locality.

Local VERP Advisory Committee

Each grantee is required to have significant coordination through a local advisory committee. The advisory committee must include representatives from the following:

- Local CoC
- Workforce development
- Local DSS
- Legal Aid
- Public Housing Authority
- Representatives of Associations representing landlords
- Housing Counseling Agency/Program
- Conflict Resolution
- Persons with lived experience of eviction or housing insecurity
- Organizations representing communities of color
- Tenant advocacy groups (if present in the community)
- Centers for Independent Living

Local Match

- The program does not require a match.

- Applications that include match contributions (both in-kind and cash match) will be given a scoring preference per the state budget directive.

- Local COVID or other emergency resources do not count toward a local match commitment.

Outreach and Engagement

- Grantees must develop an Outreach and Engagement plan to ensure households at higher risk of evictions are made aware of the VERP pilot.

- Grantees required to ensure the pilot is included in the 2-1-1 Virginia's database of resources.

Data Collection

- Virginia lacks a statewide, real-time understanding of evictions across the Commonwealth.

- Access to additional data is critical to better understanding eviction trends and developing evidence-based solutions.

- Grantees will work closely with DHCD to develop and implement a local or regional process to collect eviction data.

VERP Evaluation

- Following award announcements, DHCD will work with grantees to create a pilot evaluation tool.

- The evaluation tool will assess the impact of the grantee's program and the overall effectiveness of the pilot.

- The evaluation tool is not required as part of the application.

Overview of Application Process

- Deadline: 11:59PM on January 8, 2021

- All applications must be submitted through DHCD's CAMS online application system

- Applications will be evaluated as submitted

Accessing Application Instructions and Guidelines

1. Go to the DHCD website, www.dhcd.Virginia.gov

2. Click on Access CAMS button in the upper right corner

3. Click Applications and Programs

4. Click Apply on the top menu

5. Select Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP) 2020 – Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (2020) from the dropdown menu

6. Click Go

7. Click Apply

Tips for Using CAMS

- All work in CAMS should be frequently saved

- Google Chrome is the recommended browser

- Work in MS Word and copy and paste into the CAMS text boxes

- The text box will only accommodate text responses. Graphics, tables, or charts should not be pasted into the narrative section; instead, include the information in a separate attachment.

Project Information

Project Information	Project Budget	Narrative Information	Attachments	Additional Information

Project Information

Organization Name*:

Project Primary Contact

First Name*:   Last Name*:

Title*:   Email*:

Work Phone*:   ▢ - ▢ - ▢

Project Location

Address*:   Zip Code*:   ▢ - ▢   Whats my +4?

City*:

Primary Service Area

County: Add/Edit County   City: Add/Edit City   Town: Add/Edit Town

Project Budget

Project Budget Information

Please enter your Total Request: $ `0.00`

Cost/Activity Category	DHCD Request	Other Funding	Total
⊞ Financial Assistance (Housing stabilization and relocation services)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
⊞ Stabilization Services	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
⊞ Administration	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
⊞ Case management	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
TOTAL	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Budget Narrative:

Narrative Information

Project Information | **Project Budget** | **Narrative Information** | **Attachments** | **Additional Information**

Please answer following questions:

Tell us about the eviction rates and local needs for the locality(ies) that your proposed program would serve.

Describe your organization's approach to reducing evictions and improving housing stability.

Tell us about how you will target these resources. Please include information about any assessment tool and/or factors that you will be using.

Attachments

| Project Information | Project Budget | Narrative Information | **Attachments** | Additional Information |

According to the program requirement, you must submit/upload following required documents:

UPLOAD ATTACHMENTS INSTRUCTION:
Please see guidelines for description of attachment requirements.

Implementation Timeline
| Choose File | No file chosen |

Policies and Procedures
| Choose File | No file chosen |

Assessment Tool
| Choose File | No file chosen |

Any MOUs or Related Agreements
| Choose File | No file chosen |

Match Documentation
| Choose File | No file chosen |

Advisory Committee
| Choose File | No file chosen |

(Optional)
| Choose File | No file chosen |

Attachments

- Implementation timeline

- Policies and Procedures

- Assessment Tool

- Any MOUs or Related Agreements

- Match Documentation

- Advisory Committee

- Optional

Application Status

- Multiple users can work on, edit, and review application materials.

- CAMS will save the application as <u>Incomplete</u>

- Applicant may return repeatedly to CAMS to work on application.

- Be sure all work on the application is saved in CAMS

- Once the application is submitted, the status will change from Incomplete to <u>Pending</u>.

Pilot Application Evaluation Criteria

Pilot Application Evaluation Criteria		
Criteria	Scoring Elements	Max. Points
Need	Pre-pandemic rate of evictions; targeted localities (see page 3)	40
Approach	Assessment tool; equity measures; inclusions of person with lived experience; policies and procedures; Advisory committee; best practices; local collaboration; pilot components; local match	30
Capacity	Experience serving low-income households and providing financial assistance	30
TOTAL –must score at least 60 points.		100

Assistance

Technical CAMS Questions:

CAMS Help Desk

CamsHelp@dhcd.virginia.gov

*Do not wait until the last minute – Resource Team is not available after business hours

Application Questions:

Senta Gorrie

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