

## Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP) 2022 Applicant FAQ

- Is there a maximum amount of award per applicant?
  - There is not a maximum amount of award per applicant. The VERP 2021 program currently includes four grantees, but funding decisions for VERP 2022 will depend on application submissions. The available funding across all grantees is \$3 million including a \$250,000 court navigator pilot set-aside. DHCD reserves the right to adjust funding level and grant period based on availability of funds.
- If a Housing Authority applies for assistance, do they have to serve other residents outside of their own tenants?
  - Not necessarily, make sure you explain the scope of your program in the grant application.
- Public Housing Authorities are listed as a required participant in the VERP Advisory Committee. If a city or county does not have a PHA, is there a substitute agency that should be included?
  - No, just make a note in your application that PHAs do not exist in your community.
- Does the pilot include homeowners for mortgage assistance?
  - No, the pilot does not include homeowners. The pilot is focused on eviction prevention and thus will only serve renters.
- Does VERP have citizenship requirements for pilot participants?
  - No, VERP does not have any citizenship requirements. Individuals who are undocumented are eligible to receive VERP services.
- Can applicant just apply for the \$250,000 Court Navigation Pilot Set-Aside?
  - No, Court Navigation Pilot set-aside funding is intended to be a part of a Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot Program application for those that wish to apply for this funding. If an organization would like to just supply court navigator services, it is recommended that they serve as a sub recipient as part of the primary applicant's program.
- Can an organization service more than one locality in a region?
  - Yes, an organization can serve more than one locality. DHCD will only fund one grantee per locality.
- Can an organization serve as a sub-grantee for several primary applicants?
  - Yes, but the primary applicant should consider the sub-grantee's capacity to serve multiple areas.
- DHCD has a scoring preference for localities listed under the geographic targeting section of the program guidelines. What period of time should applicants be looking at to determine those eviction rates?
  - DHCD is interested in the evictions rates pre-pandemic. If available, it is recommended to look at the eviction rates in 2019 for a locality.
- Will current VERP 2020 Grantees receive preference in the VERP 2022 scoring?
  - No, but there is a narrative question in the application where current VERP grantees can explain their current progress to date and how a second VERP

award will help them further reduce evictions in their communities. DHCD will use current grantee's mid-year reports as a factor in making funding decisions.

- DHCD asked that applicants involve individuals with lived experience. How will you verify that the applicant involved individuals with lived experience?
  - DHCD asks that applicants include a brief narrative describing how they plan to select and include such an individual. DHCD will not verify the individual's background, but instead, will rely upon the applicant to conduct any verification necessary.
- Will you partially fund requests, meaning that an applicant applies for \$100,000 in funding, but you don't approve full request instead approved for less?
  - Yes, DHCD may choose to partially fund requests.
- Can emergency COVID-19 funding count towards the local match?
  - Yes, local COVID-19 emergency funding can count towards a local match commitment. This includes in-kind and cash matches. The pilot does not require a match; however, applicants that include a local match contributions will be given a scoring preference. Matching funds can include local government resources.
- Is there a limit on administrative spending in the budget?
  - Yes, the limit on administrative expenses is capped at 5%.
- Do co-applicants need to have MOUs in place when applying?
  - MOUs or a similar agreement (such as a Letter of Intent) are required when applying. Applicants should submit MOUs or agreements in the "attachment" section of the application. Applicants should clearly identify all intended partners in their application.
- The program runs from January 2022 through December 2022. Does all of the money need to be spent during that timeframe?
  - The initial VERP grant funds are available for use between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. DHCD reserves the right to adjust funding level and grant period based on availability of funds.