



ERF 3-R - Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ)

Encampment

1. Is this round of funding primarily focusing on encampments on state right of way?

Ans: No, applications will be accepted for all ERF projects regardless of whether the encampment is on a state right of way. However, just like ERF-2, statute requires that up to 50% of ERF-3 funds be prioritized for ERF projects on state right of way.

2. Is there a size threshold for prioritizing encampments?

Ans: No. It is up to the applicant to explain why they are prioritizing a particular encampment.

3. Can you explain what constitutes a large enough encampment? How is this defined?

Ans. There is no minimum size requirement in this round of funding. See Section I.F of the NOFA for guidance on how the term "encampment" is defined.

4. Do these funds qualify for encampment clean-up services?

Ans. Applicants may propose to use ERF funds for sanitation services for people residing in the prioritized encampment that promote safety, health, and wellness. This may include but is not limited to non-intrusive, curb-side waste removal and access to clean and available bathrooms. ERF-3-R funds may not be used for site restoration or encampment clearances.

State Right of Way

5. What is the state right of way?

Ans. The state right of way is the area adjacent to highways and freeways. The Caltrans [District Encampment Coordinators](#) can help guide you and answer questions about whether your prioritized encampment is on the state right of way.

6. How can I determine whether an encampment is on a state right of way?

Answer: Cal ICH recommends reaching out to your local [District Encampment Coordinators](#) to determine whether your prioritized encampment is located on state right of way property.

7. If an encampment is on a Federal right of way, is a letter of support/collaboration from the federal entity required? Does Cal ICH look at the federal right of way with the same priority as a state right of way?

Ans: No, we do not have requirements for collaborating with Federal entities nor prioritizing Federal right of way, however we recommend reaching out to your local Caltrans [District Encampment Coordinator](#) to fully understand the scope of the state right of way. All jurisdictions applying for funds to support encampment resolution at a site located on a state right of way are required to submit a Caltrans Letter of Support.

8. We have lots of encampments on state right of way that are not concentrated in one single spot. They don't consider themselves as one community, but they are on interchanges or riverbanks. Would we be able to consider an area where there is smaller concentration of encampments in one application?

Ans. Yes, but it is incumbent on the applicant to justify serving a group of closely linked encampments under one project. Section I.F of the NOFA provides additional guidance: "ERF authorizing legislation requires funding be used for "prioritized" encampments. Applicants must provide a justification for the prioritization of the specific encampment proposed to be served. ERF is not intended to be used to fund a community-wide encampment resolution program. However, in very small communities it may be possible to justify prioritizing all or a small number of encampments for resolution using this fund source. Therefore, in completing this application, applicants must identify and describe the specific encampment that will be prioritized for resolution. If an applicant proposes to prioritize a large, noncontiguous, or multiple site(s), the encampments may only be addressed through a single application if: (a) the justification for prioritizing the encampments is the same, and (b) the demographics and service needs of the residents of the encampments is sufficiently similar, and (c) that the same set of services, and service providers, including outreach, interim and permanent housing programs, will be used to resolve the identified people's experience of homelessness in encampments. Applicant must prepare a separate application for each encampment that does not meet the requirements of (a) – (c)."

9. Are there any restrictions on which eligible applicant may apply to serve an encampment that is **not** on state right of way?

Ans. No.

* For encampments on state right of way: local jurisdictions (cities and counties) have priority to apply to serve encampments on state right of way before May 1, 2024. However, CoCs **may** also apply to serve encampments on the state right of way. If a CoC is applying to serve an encampment on state right of way before May 1, 2024, the CoC must provide a letter of local acknowledgement confirming that the CoC has communicated with each overlapping Local Jurisdiction about its intent to apply and that no overlapping Local Jurisdiction intends to apply for ERF-3-R funds to serve this same encampment.

HMIS

10. Are grant recipients required to utilize HMIS for quarterly reporting and project/activity set up?

Answer: Pursuant to AB 977, the use of HMIS is required for all state-funded homelessness services programs. ERF grantees are required to submit quarterly reports to Cal ICH with fiscal and programmatic data reflecting the progress of their ERF program in a format provided by Cal ICH. In addition to these quarterly reports, grantees must also adopt a specific project setup in their local HMIS that allows Cal ICH to identify all the served clients from the designated encampment by ERF-funded services and activities. The detailed instructions for establishing projects within HMIS will be furnished upon receipt of an award.

Application/ Evaluation

11. To what extent will local leveraged resources be considered in the ERF 3-R application cycle?

Ans: ERF funds and the proposals they support are not intended to be operated in isolation from the larger housing and homelessness services systems. Cal ICH expects that applicants identify leveraged funds and resources from other local, state, and federal sources and explain how these resources will be used in conjunction with ERF-3-R funds to accomplish the proposal's goals. That said, as noted on page 15 of the NOFA, applications will be evaluated with the understanding that communities vary significantly with respect to the current availability of other fund sources that can be used as leverage for their proposed projects and to sustain the projects beyond the grant term. In the absence of currently available resources, applicants are encouraged to request enough ERF funds to fully satisfy their program objectives.

12. What do you mean by "leveraged funds"?

This is a funding source or resource that will support proposal implementation and outcomes. This can include the coordination of resources from other systems. Examples may include prior ERF awards, HUD unsheltered NOFO, and other federal, state, and local funding sources. Please note, applications will be evaluated with the understanding that communities vary significantly with respect to the current availability of other fund sources that can be used as leverage for their proposed projects and to sustain the projects beyond the grant term. In the absence of currently available resources, Applicants are encouraged to provide a specific plan for obtaining the funding necessary to sustain their project beyond the grant term if the project is intended to continue.

13. The ERF-1 application included a request for including detail about how the site of an encampment will be returned to intended public use of the property. What, if any, guidance is there regarding this issue for this round of funding? Is this part of the evaluation criteria?

Answer: Applicants are encouraged to focus their proposal around resolving the experience of homelessness for the people residing at the prioritized encampment. A proposal may include plans for returning the site to its intended use, but this is not part of the scoring criteria and ERF funds may not be spent on site restoration activities.

14. If a jurisdiction can demonstrate that it is following all the principles, goals, and strategies set out in the NOFA, can its application still be considered for a site that is already scheduled for a closure due to construction with Council authorization?

Answer: Applicants should carefully consider the timeline when selecting a site and developing their application. The proposal's timeline is a scored section (see section VI.B of the NOFA) and failing this section would result in an application not passing. Below are some timeline factors to consider:

- Generally, the award process (including contract execution) takes approximately three to five months from the close of the application period.
- The ERF-2-R Program is not reimbursement-based. All awardees will receive a check accounting for their total allocation amount upfront.
- ERF funds may not be used to reimburse funds that were spent before the announcement of the ERF award.
- Awardees must expend no less than 50% of their ERF-3-R funds by June 30, 2025, and must expend all ERF-3-R funds by June 30, 2027.

However, we do understand that encampment are dynamic and there are often reasons to close an encampment under a shorter time period, especially when there are imminent health and safety concerns. This is the case for many encampments on state right of way, and if this is the case for your prioritized encampment, you must describe how your ERF project will still be able to reach its goals, despite an early closure (e.g., high return probable sites, a known new location where the encampment will relocate, etc.). Importantly, applicants are explicitly asked to describe their proposal's strategies to mitigate displacement in the application (Section 3: Implementation), and applicants should ensure that they are doing all they can to protect the health and safety of the encampment residents from harmful sweeps and other enforcement activities.

15. Does an applicant have to identify the service provider in the application, or can a program design be submitted with plans to follow the local procurement process to contract with a provider to carry out the program?

Ans. Applicants do not have to have a contractor identified in the application; however, starting this process early may make an application more competitive. For example, Cal ICH will assess the applicant's demonstrated ability to meet fiscal deadlines (e.g., grantees must spend 50% of their award by June 30, 2025). Identifying and contracting with service providers can cause significant delays in ramping up a project once awarded. Cal ICH would strongly encourage applicants to do as much as they can upfront to ensure contractors are identified expeditiously so they may begin serving the identified clients and meeting the fiscal deadlines.

16. Can a Local Jurisdiction or CoC apply that hasn't applied to this grant before?

Ans. Yes. You are encouraged to apply especially if you haven't received ERF funding before.

17. Has ERF funded prior applications targeted towards serving farmworkers experiencing homelessness in encampments?

Ans. Yes. Those projects often include legal services to help support any individuals that are undocumented. Many projects have focused on very specific populations and reflected the needs and preferences of that population in the project design.

18. What is the difference between the first, second, and third application window?

Ans. Cal ICH created three application windows to ensure dollars are getting into communities as expediently as possible. All applications received in each application window will be reviewed and evaluated concurrently. Therefore, jurisdictions that apply in window 1 and are determined eligible, will receive their award before applicants in window 2 or 3. It is also possible that we will run out of funds before the third window, in which case Cal ICH would no longer accept applications.

Please note, during the first two application windows (i.e., before May 1, 2024), if a CoC applies to serve an encampment on the state right of way, the CoC will need to procure a letter of local acknowledgement. This letter must confirm that the CoC has communicated with each overlapping Local Jurisdiction about its intent to apply and that no overlapping Local Jurisdiction intends to apply for ERF-3-R funds to serve this particular encampment.

19. If our program was previously awarded, are we able to utilize the same application for this new funding as long as it follows all the requests/guidelines?

Ans. If you've identified a successful model or program design and would like to use that same model or design to serve another encampment or another population, that would be permissible.

Please note: this funding will not augment a prior award because costs for the awarded activities have increased. If you were previously approved for ERF, it means you asked for and were awarded a certain amount of money to accomplish the described project. In order to receive a new ERF award, a previously awarded applicant must provide a new proposal, describe the additional activities to be carried out and/or identify the additional people to be served.

20. What are the implications of AB 1285 on ERF eligibility, if any?

AB 1285 amended the HHAP-5 statute and does not have a direct impact on the ERF program. This bill adds a requirement to the HHAP-5 application. As a result, where ERF projects are being implemented, HHAP-5 applicants must provide evidence and an explanation of (1) collaboration occurring between the CoC and Local Jurisdictions and (2) how people served through encampment resolution have or will be prioritized for permanent housing within Coordinated Entry Systems. This HHAP-5 application requirement shall not be interpreted to supersede or limit the federal requirements of coordinated entry systems.

Eligible Uses of Funds

21. Does ERF cover expenses, for eligible program costs, spent prior to the award letter or contract?

Answer. Generally, expenses are not allowed before the execution of the ERF standard agreement. However, expenses may be authorized by Cal ICH after the date of the award letter, provided the ERF grantee describes their immediate need for the funds and receives official, written approval from Cal ICH to do so.

22. We plan on applying for the grant for an encampment that is mostly comprised by individuals with substance use disorders. Does the grant allow us to buy treatment beds as a form of interim housing, with the goal of placing those individuals in permanent housing with a rental voucher after their treatment bed exit?

Ans. Yes, so long as the applicant can demonstrate the project is person-centered and Housing First compliant. For example, you could not deny housing or services to someone who does not accept placement into a treatment bed. Generally, ERF-3-R dollars must be used to serve the eligible population within the prioritized encampment with services and interventions that lead directly into permanent housing or provide a clear pathway to it.

23. As it relates to permanent housing, can the applicant choose to use ERF funds to provide monthly stipends or full rent amounts to ensure the client remains in permanent housing? If so, how long can those types of stipends last? Six months, 12 months?

Answer: Yes, stipends or rental assistance to support a client in retaining their housing are allowable uses. Cal ICH does not have prescribed limits on rental assistance, but ERF does have relatively short expenditure deadlines (all funds must be spent by 6/30/27). Please note, the applicant will need to explain how they determined the amount of funds being requested and describe how the funds are a prudent and efficient use of public dollars.

24. Is there a cap on the admin rate that the local jurisdiction can pass through to the service providers?

Ans. No, there is not. Cal ICH recommends local jurisdictions follow their local policies and procedures.

25. Can you please define interim housing?

Ans. Any housing solution that is not permanent. For example, a hotel room stay, congregate shelter, non-congregate shelter, a Roomkey site, transitional housing, tiny home community, or any housing that is not intended as permanent housing would be categorized under the interim housing category.

26. Are Safe Camping and/or Safe Parking programs an eligible use?

Ans. Yes; Safe Parking and Camping programs could be funded as part of the path to permanent housing solutions.

27. Can this grant be used for acquisition? Like purchase of a hotel?

Ans. Yes; ERF funds may be used to procure properties (e.g., buying duplexes or hotels to convert them into permanent housing). One caveat is that ERF is a short-term grant and an applicant will need to demonstrate their ability to meet the expenditure deadlines. Because acquisition and rehabilitation of a property often have delays, applicants should be mindful as they develop their proposal and timeline.

28. California is at a deficit for affordable "permanent" housing and this funding is ostensibly, one time. What is the state looking for in terms of funding or support for a permanent housing component?

Ans. ERF-3-R is a four-year grant program. Grantees can buy properties and support operations in the near-term, and then will need to identify other funding sources and local capacity to continue the operating costs. We encourage applicants to be creative – ERF provides flexibility in allowable use of funds, despite the short timeline to spend the funds.

29. Which costs are specifically excluded from eligibility under the ERF program?

Ans. ERF funds may not be used for site restoration or to fund any enforcement activities. Costs shall not be used for any use or activity that is in violation, conflict, or inconsistent with the legislative intent of the authorizing statute to ensure the safety and wellness of people experiencing homelessness in encampments.

30. Can ERF-3-R funds be used to purchase vehicles for outreach (e.g., a van)?

Ans. Yes, if the expenditure is needed to serve the people residing at the prioritized encampment. It is however, incumbent on the applicant to explain and justify the expenditures outlined in the application, including describing how the proposal is a prudent and effective use of the requested funding.

31. Can the funds be used for construction of permanent supportive housing (including management, maintenance, case management services)? If so, where in the development process does a project need to be?

Ans. Yes, ERF funds may be used for construction and/or operation of permanent supportive housing (PSH) if the PSH is/will serve the identified eligible population (the people experiencing homelessness in the prioritized encampment). Please note:

- Applicants must demonstrate how they will meet the program's expenditure deadlines.
- Given the grant term, ERF funds can support acquisition, building, and/or operations in the near-term, then applicants will need to identify other funding sources and local capacity to continue to pay for ongoing operating costs.
- ERF funds may be used to support projects that are already in the works; however, ERF funds may **not** be used to supplant existing dollars or reimburse costs that have already been incurred.

32. Can this grant be applied to fund existing services like a Coordinated Outreach Program?

Ans. Yes. ERF dollars may be used for outreach and engagement efforts; however, ERF dollars cannot be used to supplant local funding. For example, ERF funds cannot replace local funds that are committed to an existing or developing homeless assistance program. However, if funds previously supporting a service or project end or are reduced for reasons beyond the control of the grantee and services or housing capacity will be lost as a result of these funds ending, ERF funds may be used to maintain the service or program. Examples include, but are not limited to, a time-limited city and/or county tax or one-time block grant.

33. The NOFA indicates that operating reserves are an eligible cost. Are reserves considered expended or do they need to be used during the life of the grant?

Ans. Operating reserves are considered expended upon deposit in the reserve account. Proposals should demonstrate how expenditures will directly support a service and housing pathway for the people proposed to be served. Operating reserves should follow local policies and procedures. Funds may remain in the operating reserves account past the ERF-3-R expenditure date as they are already considered expended, and the purpose of operating reserves is to provide a longer-term reserve. Additionally, Cal ICH recommends that funding set aside for operating reserves be kept in an interest-bearing account. Money accrued from those accounts must be used for ERF-3-R eligible activities and reported on as required by Agency.

34. Can ERF funds be used for pre-development costs?

Ans. Yes, but this is a short-term, project-based funding stream which means the funds must be spent within the grant term and the interventions must serve/house the individuals living in the prioritized encampment. Therefore, it is incumbent on the applicant to demonstrate that these costs will occur within the grant term and the units will serve the individuals experiencing homelessness in the prioritized encampment.

35. Would mass leasing units be an eligible expense under ERF?

Ans. Yes, if these units serve the people living in the prioritized encampment.

36. Would reimbursement for an acquisition that recently closed be eligible?

Ans. No, that would be considered supplanting funds that have already been spent locally. Additionally, no costs may be reimbursable that were spent before the award was announced.

Others

37. Can you explain why grantees will be required to spend 50% in year 1 of a 3-year grant?

Ans. The expenditure deadlines are outlined in statute. While these are technically four-year appropriations, it takes time to release, develop, evaluate, and approve the applications. This leaves approximately 3 years for grantees to expend funds locally.

38. Can grantees follow local procurement requirements for services, or are the funds subject to other procurement requirements?

Ans. Cal ICH doesn't have specific procurement requirements. Grantees should follow their local policies and procedures.

39. Is there a maximum award amount?

Ans. No, but applicants must justify the amount of requested funds. For example, applicants must describe how the proposal is a prudent and effective use of the requested funding. Generally, awarded applications have received the amount requested, but Cal ICH does have the flexibility to approve an application for less than the requested amount, including making line-item revisions to the plan.

Batch Two – Posted March 2024

40. I am working with a city that is applying for ERF funds to support a Mobile Services Unit and Supportive Interim Housing. Although their estimated unhoused population citywide is 1,700, that population is fairly spread out and is not concentrated in a handful of encampments. The applicant has a plan to serve the unhoused through ERF based on location identifying each space as a prioritized "encampment" all in the same application – public spaces, state right of way, and floodwater zones. The demographics of the unhoused in these locations is substantially similar, as is the makeup of the encampments. All will be served through the same resources. Is this allowable under the grant terms or would the applicant need to submit three separate applications?

Ans. Please refer to NOFA Section 1.F for guidance on what constitutes an encampment and the conditions under which an applicant may submit a single application vs. when multiple applications are required.

41. The ERF-3 application includes this prompt:

Potential inflow of people into the prioritized encampment site during the grant term.

Does ICH want respondents to provide just the number of people who would be in addition to those currently at the site, or the *total* number (people currently at the site + inflow)? Is this question asking for a number, or a more descriptive response related to inflow?

Ans. Just a number indicating the additional, anticipated inflow is fine; applicants may add narrative for context as needed.

42. Can you please help us understand what is the difference between site restoration and unit conversions?

Ans. Site restoration is related to bringing the encampment site back to its original, intended use. ERF-3 funds may not be used for site restoration. Unit conversion is intended to create some form of housing, which is an eligible use of ERF funds.

43. Under what circumstances, if any, could the same encampment location be prioritized in separate ERF-3 applications?

Ans. Please refer to NOFA Section 1.F for guidance on what constitutes an encampment and the conditions under which an applicant may submit a single application vs. when multiple applications are required.

44. Can you clarify whether the ERF funds can be used to remove unwanted property and debris encampment residents have voluntarily surrendered as they transition from the encampment to interim or permanent housing? The FAQ indicates that ERF can fund sanitation services for people residing at the encampment, but it is not clear whether it can pay for public works and sanitation services after they've left to join our proposed encampment resolution program. To be more specific, would the following be considered eligible Clean Up Services after the residents have left the encampment?

- Trash, debris, and property removal
- Hazardous waste removal (including the pumping of surrendered RVs prior to towing)
- Vehicle towing, storage, and dismantling (particularly for uninhabitable RVs that have been surrendered)
- Would these be considered eligible Cleanup services or would the state consider these Site Restoration activities?
- Repair to damaged fencing (particularly fencing that protects high-hazard flood or fire control areas from re-encampment)
- Repair to any damaged infrastructure (e.g., broken fire hydrants, blocked storm drains, etc).

Ans. ERF funds may be used to support the health and safety of people residing at the prioritized encampment, which can include sanitation and clean-up services. ERF funds may not be used for any site restoration or post-encampment resolution clean-up activities. Cal ICH recommends using local services or other available funding sources to support these post-resolution activities.

45. The cost of securing motel-based interim housing often requires the payment of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) to the local jurisdiction, and that funding is money they lose if it is excluded from the budget. Is the payment of TOT an eligible interim housing expense of the ERF dollars?

Ans. Yes, this is an eligible use of ERF funds.

46. We are clear that ERF funding should be used to create, expand, or extend interim and permanent housing – not to supplant existing programs. However, in some circumstances, it is necessary for the safe resolution of an encampment or for the safe management of an interim housing site to place people experiencing homelessness into alternative, existing interim housing (e.g., accommodating people with more significant physical disabilities into ADA units, accommodating a domestic violence situation, accommodating an RSO-

restricted placement, or placements into the family system where a minor child is present). If the County needs to place any households from ERF-funded resolutions into existing interim housing sites, could the cost of such placements be considered an eligible expense, or would it always need to be a leveraged expense?

Ans. Applicants should use all available local resources to match people with the housing options that best meets their needs. While ERF can be used to support a variety of both new and existing interim and permanent housing interventions for the target population, ERF funds may not supplant existing local homelessness dollars. For example, if a county has committed to master lease an apartment complex for people experiencing homelessness in the community, and an individual who is being served under ERF is placed in one of these units, the county could not ask ERF to pay for this unit that the county had previously agreed to fund, as this would be considered supplanting the county funds.

47. Some components that our community plans to include in the ERF-3-R project proposal are already in operation and others are projected to begin and/or meet milestones ahead of the date we expect to hear from Cal ICH on whether our application has been approved for funding. While it is our hope that our application will be approved for ERF-3-R funding and they will become part of the larger project, they are currently meeting significant needs for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in our community as stand-alone and/or short-term projects. These activities are currently being supported by leveraged funds and will continue to be at least until we hear back from Cal ICH on our ERF-3-R application. In addition to the immediate positive impact that these early activities are having in our community, we also believe that getting a head start on them will position us to "hit the ground running" should our ERF-3-R application be approved.

We are operating under the assumption that Cal ICH shares our belief that we should be doing all we can, as soon as we can, to resolve unsheltered homelessness in our community rather than delaying crucial activities while waiting on funding decisions, however, we do have a few questions on this matter, particularly with regards to representing them in our application.

Can we include milestones in our timeline with dates that occur prior to the anticipated date of potential availability of ERF-3-R funds? If so, will it be understood that these are activities being supported by leveraged funds and that we are aware that any costs incurred related to these early activities will not be eligible for reimbursement using ERF-3-R funds? We would prefer to include them, as doing so will provide Cal ICH with a more complete picture of the overall project, however, we do not want it to appear that we don't understand the parameters of the funding program.

Ans. Yes, the application can include milestones that occur prior to the availability of ERF-3-R funds. Cal ICH recommends including information in your application so that it will be understood that these are activities being supported by leveraged funds and

reimbursement is not being sought (e.g., application question 9, questions 28-30 including the attached standardized budget, and questions 35-36).

48. If individuals residing in the encampment being prioritized in our ERF-3-R application are placed in Interim housing through pre-award activities, can the subsequent services provided to these individuals be supported by ERF-3-R funds if/when they are awarded, provided this factor is being tracked during the early activity period?

Ans. Yes, and we recommend including this information as appropriate in the people served section of the application.

49. Should we include the funds currently supporting the early activities of the ERF-3-R project in the "Leveraged funds" column of our ERF-3-R project budget, or should only funds that will be expended on the same/similar activities within actual ERF-3-R expenditure period be included?

Ans. Yes, you can include funds supporting these early activities under leveraged funds. Cal ICH should be able to use your submitted budget to understand the general parameters of the proposal, the scope of resources that will be used to help meet the proposal's outcomes, including permanent housing outcomes, and how services, activities, and interim and/or permanent housing identified in the proposal may be funded. In addition to identifying the proposed uses of ERF-3-R funds, applicants are encouraged to identify and quantify all leveraged resources that will support the proposed ERF project in achieving its outcomes.

50. Under Rapid Rehousing, can we use these funds to assist clients with reunification efforts with family and loved ones, resulting in permanent housing options?

Ans. Yes, this is an eligible use and depending on the program design it could be categorized as "Delivery of permanent housing" or "operating subsidies-permanent housing." All reunification efforts must be in alignment with client choice and all programs funded with state dollars must comply with Housing First.

51. Under Prevention and Shelter Diversion, can we use these funds to bring resources to those experiencing homelessness within the encampment?

Ans. Prevention and shelter diversion is for those not yet experiencing homelessness, whereas street outreach is for those experiencing homelessness; therefore, street outreach would be a better category to use in this case. The prevention and diversion category will only be used in ERF to prevent individuals who have been placed in permanent housing through ERF from falling back into homelessness.

52. Under Interim Housing, can we use these funds to develop a navigation center? Specifically, can we use these funds for construction costs?

Ans. Yes, ERF funds may be used for construction and/or operation of a navigation center, provided it is clinically enhanced, follows the core components of Housing First,

and it will serve the identified eligible population (the people experiencing homelessness in the prioritized encampment). ERF does have relatively short expenditure deadlines and a focus on permanent housing solutions, so you would need to illustrate both how you will meet expenditure deadlines and prioritize permanent house options within the grant term.

53. I have a question in reference to the ERF-3-R funding. Could you confirm that the City of Bellflower is an eligible jurisdiction to apply for these funds directly through the state?

Ans. Yes, California cities of any size are eligible to apply for ERF-3-R funding. As a reminder, eligible applicants for ERF-3-R funding include:

Local Jurisdictions – means a city, including a charter city, a county, including a charter county, or a city and county, including a charter city and county; and

Continuums of Care (CoC) – as defined in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

54. We would like to apply for ERF-3 on behalf of some of the people that were first served by ERF-2, currently in interim housing. These would be the people served in the final phases of that grant and those most difficult to stabilize--most have both substance use and mental health challenges. The new funding would be used to ensure they don't return to homelessness by providing enough additional, supports, including income-focused intensive case management, to transition them into permanent housing. From the city's perspective, they have invested and engaged in this population and are concerned that without an additional phase of support, these residents are at high risk for returning to unsheltered situations.

Ans. The eligible population to be served with ERF-3-R funding is people experiencing homelessness in encampments. Generally, ERF-3-R funding is not meant to augment a prior award which provided a certain amount of money to accomplish the outcomes described in the proposal. In order to receive a new ERF award, a previously awarded applicant must provide a new proposal that describes the additional activities to be carried out, outcomes to be accomplished and/or identify the additional people to be served.

The City could submit a new proposal, furthering and/or supporting permanent housing outcomes of people who previously resided in the ERF prioritized encampment as an eligible activity (see the description under "prevention and diversion" as an example), however these activities alone, do not constitute a sufficient ERF project proposal.

Additionally, Cal ICH recommends awardees identify and tap into other resources available in the community to support ongoing stabilization and housing services for ERF clients given that this is a finite and time-limited funding source.

55. We were wondering the extent to which local leveraged resources will be considered in the 3-R application cycle.

Ans. ERF funds and the proposals they support are not intended to be operated in isolation from the larger housing and homelessness services systems. Cal ICH expects that applicants identify leveraged funds and resources from other local, state, and federal sources and explain how these resources will be used in conjunction with ERF-3-R funds to accomplish the proposal's goals. That said, as noted on page 15 of the NOFA, applications will be evaluated with the understanding that communities vary significantly with respect to the current availability of other fund sources that can be used as leverage for their proposed projects and to sustain the projects beyond the grant term. In the absence of currently available resources, applicants are encouraged to request enough ERF funds to fully satisfy their program objectives.