

Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement

Building the capacity of colleges and universities to support resettlement.

SHERR Innovation Incentive Grants Questions and Answers

January 12, 2024

Thank you for your interest in SHERR and the SHERR the Innovation Incentive Grants program.

The SHERR team thanks potential applicants who submitted questions about the [call for proposals](#) by the deadline of January 10, 2024. As planned in the call for proposals, we responded by email directly to each inquiry, and this document summarizes the questions and answers for the benefit of all potential applicants.

A general reminder: The purpose of SHERR's Innovation Incentive Grants program is to pilot promising approaches to meaningfully and tangibly engage higher education institutions in initiatives to grow and strengthen the domestic capacity for placement of refugees in communities across the U.S. The Innovation Incentive Grants program emphasizes the development of sustainable models, projects and/or programs that hold strong potential to meaningfully increase the local capacity to resettle refugees through the Reception & Placement (R&P) Program and have an impact on resettlement outcomes, especially during the first 90 days.

The questions below are presented as written by their authors unless marked as "paraphrased question" for efficiency and anonymity.

- 1. Question:** Do partner organizations need to be in the same state?
Answer: No. Same-state location is not required.
- 2. Question:** Is it possible for a college/university to partner with more than one resettlement partner?
Answer: Yes. In the application form, you may reflect these details using either the last section of the form or any of the text boxes in section 1.2 or 1.3.
- 3. Paraphrased question:** Does the resettlement partner have to be a local branch or affiliate of a national resettlement agency?
Answer: No, the resettlement partner does not need to be an affiliate/local branch of a national resettlement agency. This scenario would not, however, score the application additional points per SHERR's evaluation criteria.
- 4. Paraphrased question:** Is housing for a student admitted under Welcome Corps on Campus an allowable expense as part of the SHERR grant?

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Answer: SHERR's funder, the Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) will not approve SHERR Innovation Incentive Grants proposals or expenses that primarily support work related to Welcome Corps on Campus programming.

5. **Paraphrased question:** If the proposed project includes service learning and cultural orientation through community gatherings, are food costs an allowable expense?

Answer: Yes, these are allowable expenses as long as they benefit the project and are reasonable.

6. **Paraphrased question:** If the proposed project includes building digital literacy and self-sufficiency of newcomers, are laptops an allowable expense?

Answer: Yes, these are allowable expenses as long as they benefit the project and are reasonable.

7. **Paraphrased question:** Can the deadline for proposals of Friday January 21, 2025 be extended until after that weekend or beyond?

Answer: January 21, 2024 at 9pm ET remains the deadline for submissions.

8. **Paraphrased question:** Is there a limit on how many affiliates of a national resettlement agency can submit separate proposals?

Answer: No. All completed applications meeting the eligibility requirements will be evaluated and considered.

9. **Paraphrased question:** If the headquarters of a National Resettlement Agency has submitted or is planning to submit a proposal, can a local affiliate of the same national resettlement agency submit an additional/separate proposal?

Answer: Yes

10. **Paraphrased question:** Will SHERR offer another round of funding later this year?

Answer: At this point, SHERR has plans only for a single round of grants.

11. **Question:** Can funding be used for resettlement programming costs such as client expenses and rental assistance? Are there other restrictions on direct costs?

Answer: SHERR and PRM will review the details of such proposed expenses case by case. Generally, PRM will not approve the use of federal funds to cover client expenses and rental assistance under a SHERR Innovation Incentive Grant. Please also review the purpose of SHERR and the grants program as reiterated above. Restrictions on direct costs that SHERR is able to predict are reflected in the call for proposals and this document.

12. **Question:** Is it acceptable to include a general monthly budget for office supplies without needing to include separate line items or percentages for each specific item?

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Answer: A monthly budget for supplies is acceptable as long as the itemized details are included in the narrative section.

13. Question: Is this scholarship international? Are refugee students eligible to apply?

Answer: This funding is not a scholarship for individuals, but a grant to support the work of higher education institutions (colleges and universities) and refugee resettlement organizations.

14. Paraphrased question: The call for applications mentions an option of two entities carrying out a single grant activity but receiving their funding separately. If we are interested in this approach, should we use one application form, and how would this idea affect the requirement of a letter of support?

Answer: Please submit one collaborative application, naming one of the organizations as lead, and attach a letter of support from the other (to verify that a collaboration is in place). In the optional section at the end of the application form (or in an additional attachment if necessary), explain the administrative arrangement you are seeking.

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