



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### CERV's Mobilization for Countywide Emergency Preparedness Project

1. **What benefits can we expect from participating?** The benefits to non-profits participating in our Countywide Mobilization for Emergency Readiness project focus on (1) enhancing the disaster preparedness of their constituents/vulnerable populations, (2) enhancing their organizational capacity to prepare your constituents for future emergencies and disasters, and (3) becoming even stronger advocates for the interests of their clients. In pursuit of these goals, CERV will offer ongoing technical assistance, training, and resources.
2. **How does the project define "vulnerable populations"?** As defined by the state legislature and state Office of Emergency Services, vulnerable populations include: (1) people with disabilities, access and functional needs, (2) individuals exhibiting "social vulnerability" factors, such as poverty, language barriers, social isolation, infirmities of aging and (3) those living in the county's most disadvantaged communities.
3. **Can we include community partners, like schools, community centers, etc. in our efforts?** Yes. CERV encourages applicants to reach out to other local community agencies, school resource centers, adult facilities, PTA's; faith-based organizations; senior services agencies; homeless services; veterans organizations; school districts; colleges and universities; unions; Boys and Girls Club; *et. al.* in as creative and inclusive manner as possible and will consider appropriate budget items intended to facilitate efforts to promote community cooperation and collaboration.
4. **Beyond training our constituents and improving our organization's capacity to respond to disasters, are there other expectations?** Yes. The state Office of Emergency Services expects the local community-based non-profits who do the training to provide useful feedback to our Monterey County Office of Emergency Services regarding: how to more effectively reach and support vulnerable and underserved populations throughout the county.
5. **Is there a maximum amount we can request?** Yes. The maximum request for this competition is \$21,000.
6. **Are there restrictions on what the grant money can be used for?** Yes. The state has established that "the legal use of these particular funds is limited to education and communication-related activities and materials, but not the purchase of physical tools such as generators."
7. **Are there ways we can get tools and materials not payable through the project's budget?** Yes. CERV has helped a number of organizations in the county to find support for disaster-related resources through local and regional funding sources, and will be proactive in providing such assistance to Mobilization grantees.
8. **Can we bill staff salaries to this project?** Yes. Applicants can budget an appropriate portion for the time for current staff or to hire new part-time staff to work on the project. Volunteers and interns who work on the project can be compensated for travel and expenses.
9. **Can we bring in paid trainers to help?** Yes. Applicants who wish to hire experienced trainers to conduct training sessions may budget accordingly.
10. **What can we buy for our constituents who attend the training sessions?** CERV expects grantees to provide emergency resources to those who *complete* their training. These resources could be in the form of "starter" Go

Bags, core shelter-in-place supplies or other resources that improve the readiness of their constituents. How the grantee proposes to incentivize emergency preparedness for their constituents through the provision of such resources will be of interest in the evaluation of the proposals.

11. **Can we use funds to tailor our information and materials to our constituents?** Yes. It is the intent of the state-wide *California for ALL Listos Campaign* that informational and educational materials be accessible and developed in the languages, interests, and culture of those receiving the training. CERV will be distributing these state-developed materials along with the one-hour curriculum being developed to all sub-grantees. NOTE: *CERV (and other county-wide grantees) have been told that materials will be produced in multiple languages, however, we have not seen any drafts or final decisions about languages.*
12. **Will we be able to influence government policies and practices in disaster response, recovery, or ongoing preparation efforts?** Yes. A big part of this statewide effort is aimed at ultimately improving the disaster readiness of groups that are known to be especially vulnerable during disasters and emergencies. Grant recipients will be afforded every opportunity to provide feedback and make recommendations to local, state and county agencies.
13. **Will there be other training opportunities for our constituents and our staff?** Yes. This Mobilization initiative will open up other opportunities for organizations to: (1) acquire skills that will help strengthen the grantee's future capacity to prepare their constituents for disasters and emergencies and (2) become more successful advocates for the needs and interests of their clientele.
14. **Is there a minimum number of people we have to train?** We expect every applicant to provide training to at least 50 individuals over the duration of the grant. We encourage sub-grantees to train many more. Equally important to proposal evaluators will be the impactful potential of the proposed training on each individual trainee.
15. **Will there be a lot of red tape involved?** Not if CERV can help it. We anticipate, in fact, that the ultimate impact of governmental rules and regulations will be relatively minor.
16. **Beyond training our constituents and improving our organization's capacity to respond to disasters, are there other expectations?** Yes. One expectation that the CA Office of Emergency Services had in distributing these funds is that the local community-based non-profits who do the training will ultimately provide useful feedback to our Monterey County Office of Emergency Services regarding: (1) how to more effectively reach people across Monterey County and (2) how to support vulnerable and underserved populations in our county.
17. **Can the training of constituent groups consist of a single training session?** No. CERV has conducted emergency and disaster readiness training for young and old, for those with disabilities, access and functional needs and those considered "able-bodied", in more than twelve different locations on the Peninsula, South County and Salinas. We assume that a minimum of two consecutive sessions is needed.
18. **What kind of help can we expect from CERV during the grant?** CERV will offer assistance to sub-grantees in multiple ways: (1) help in training local trainers, (2) help in tailoring resources materials to specific audiences, (3) technical assistance with institutional self-strengthening efforts, and (4) facilitating information, idea and resource exchanges among sub-grantees. In addition, CERV will offer (1) *pro bono* assistance to community-based non-profits in responding to the RFP, (2) financial planning and accounting assistance to sub-grantees in meeting project fiscal reporting requirements, (3) assistance in locating and pursuing supplementary funds to reinforce project efforts and (4) assistance in locating and pursuing follow-up support after these projects are completed.

19. **What technical assistance can we expect in 2021 and beyond?** One of CERV's core missions is to support local and indigenous disaster readiness, response and recovery activities, and we expect to maintain and strengthen those efforts in future years. CERV hopes that sub-grantees will continue in their efforts to promote emergency readiness in 2021 and beyond, and CERV expects to be there in 2021 to respond to requests for technical assistance from former sub-grantees.
20. **Will this project deflect us from our core mission?** Disaster preparation should be part of every non-profit's *agenda*, as a way to help keep their staff and their constituents safe and able to support clients who have been negatively impacted after a disaster strikes.
21. **How will we connect with other grantees?** Non-profits who receive funding from CERV's Mobilization initiative will have ample opportunities to share ideas, information and materials with other grantees in the county, both through periodic in-person gatherings and via regular virtual "get-togethers" that will not require travel across long distances. CERV will organize and manage these events from its Monterey headquarters, but in-person events will be distributed among a number of meeting sites in different locations around the county. CERV will also help facilitate "on-demand" meetings on special issues and topics that Mobilization grantees express interest in.