



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

September 21, 2020

OIG-CA-20-028

**Department of the Treasury Office of Inspector General
Coronavirus Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions Related to Reporting and
Recordkeeping (Revised)**

The Department of the Treasury (Treasury) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is responsible for monitoring and oversight of the receipt, disbursement, and use of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) payments as authorized by Title VI of the Social Security Act, as amended by Title V of Division A of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).¹ Treasury OIG was also assigned authority to recover funds in the event that it is determined a recipient of a CRF payment failed to comply with requirements of subsection 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 801(d)). Recipient reporting and record retention requirements are essential for the exercise of these responsibilities, including our conduct of audits and investigations.

Beginning September 1, 2020, the prime recipient of CRF payments will begin reporting Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) related costs incurred from March 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020 in the GrantSolutions portal. This document addresses frequently asked questions (FAQ) from CRF prime recipients regarding their reporting and record keeping requirements and supplements Treasury OIG's memorandums *Coronavirus Relief Fund Recipient Reporting and Record Retention Requirements* (OIG-CA-20-021; July 2, 2020)² and *Coronavirus Relief Fund Reporting Requirements Update* (OIG-CA-20-025; July 31, 2020).³

A. Prime Recipients

1. Who is a prime recipient?

A prime recipient is an entity that received a CRF payment directly from Treasury in accordance with the CARES Act, including:

- All 50 States,
- Units of local governments with populations over 500,000 that submitted required certifications to Treasury,
- The District of Columbia,

¹ P. L. 116 136 (March 27, 2020)

² <https://www.treasury.gov/about/organizational-structure/ig/Audit%20Reports%20and%20Testimonies/OIG-CA-20-021.pdf>

³ <https://www.treasury.gov/about/organizational-structure/ig/Audit%20Reports%20and%20Testimonies/OIG-CA-20-025.pdf>

- U.S. Territories, and
- Tribal Governments

2. *Who is a sub-recipient?*

For purposes of reporting in the GrantSolutions portal, a sub-recipient is any entity to which a prime recipient issues a contract, grant, loan, direct payment, or transfer to another government entity of \$50,000 or more.

3. *The definition of a sub-recipient provided by Treasury OIG is different than the definition of a sub-recipient in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal, 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance). Which definition is a prime recipient expected to comply with?*

The prime recipient must comply with the Treasury OIG definition. For purposes of reporting in the GrantSolutions portal, a prime recipient is to report on sub-recipients, as defined in Question 2 above. In addition, Treasury has issued guidance as described in Treasury's *Coronavirus Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQs),⁴ noting that prime recipients are to monitor and manage sub-recipients as defined in 2 CFR sec. 200.330 through 200.332.

4. *Who is responsible for reporting in the GrantSolutions portal, the prime or sub-recipient?*

Only the prime recipient is required to report COVID-19 related costs in the GrantSolutions portal.

5. *If the prime recipient distributes funds to an agency or department within the prime recipient's government, is the agency or department considered the prime recipient or a sub-recipient when funds obligated are \$50,000 or more?*

The agency or department is considered part of the prime recipient as they are all part of the same legal entity that received a direct CRF payment from Treasury. Obligations and expenditures that the agency or department incurs with the CRF proceeds must be collected by and reported in the GrantSolutions portal by the prime recipient as if they were obligated or expended by the prime recipient.

⁴ <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

- 6. *If the prime recipient obligates funds to an entity that provides a public service on behalf of the prime recipient but the prime recipient is not financially accountable of, is the entity considered the prime recipient or a sub-recipient when funds obligated are \$50,000 or more (e.g., discreetly presented component unit, quasi agency, etc.)?***

The entity is considered a sub-recipient of the prime recipient when funds obligated are \$50,000 or more. The prime recipient must report its obligations and expenditures related to the sub-recipient, including associated projects and expenditure categories, in the GrantSolutions portal. If the prime recipient obligated less than \$50,000, the prime recipient must report its obligations and expenditures related to the sub-recipient entity in aggregate in the GrantSolutions portal.

- 7. *If a prime recipient enters into multiple obligations with an entity, each obligation being less than \$50,000 with no agreement (i.e., contract, grant, or loan), however, the total obligations to the entity is above \$50,000, is the entity considered a sub-recipient?***

The entity is considered a sub-recipient, however since the obligations are below \$50,000, the prime recipient must report the multiple obligations to the entity and related expenditures in the aggregate section of the GrantSolutions portal.

- 8. *If a unit of local government received funds as both a prime recipient and as a sub-recipient do they have to track and report obligations and expenditures separately?***

Yes. For purposes of reporting in the GrantSolutions portal, the unit of local government is the prime recipient and must report obligations and expenditures related to the funds received directly from Treasury. As a sub-recipient of funds, obligations and expenditures related to the funds received from another prime recipient must be reported by the prime recipient in the GrantSolutions portal. It is recommended that the unit of local government, as a sub-recipient, report obligations and expenditure information to the prime recipient for its reporting purposes.

- 9. *If a third party is hired to review and approve sub-recipient reimbursement requests and supporting documentation, can the prime recipient place reliance on the reviews performed by the third party or is the prime recipient still required to review and approve 100 percent of all costs?***

It is up to the prime recipient on how much it relies on third-party review of reimbursement requests. However, the prime recipient is responsible for maintaining documentation to support the use of CRF proceeds. Per Treasury's *Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments*, the direct

(or prime) recipient is ultimately responsible for compliance with the limitation on the use of payments from the CRF.⁵

B. System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration

10. *Treasury OIG's memorandum, Coronavirus Relief Fund Reporting Requirements Update, states that "each prime recipient should ensure that any current or potential sub-recipients are registered in SAM.gov." Are all sub-recipients required to register in SAM.gov?*

No, all sub-recipients are not required to register in SAM.gov. This statement is a recommendation to help reduce the reporting burden on the prime recipient when entering sub-recipient details in the GrantSolutions portal. SAM.gov registration allows sub-recipient identifying and demographic details to be automatically populated in the portal after the prime recipient inputs a valid Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number assigned to the sub-recipient.⁶

11. *What are the identifying and demographic data elements that automatically populate in the GrantSolutions portal if a sub-recipient is registered in SAM.gov with a valid DUNS number?*

The following identifying and demographic data elements will automatically populate in the GrantSolutions portal if a sub-recipient is registered in SAM.gov with a valid DUNS number:

- Legal Name
- Address Line 1
- Address Line 2, if applicable
- Address Line 3, if applicable
- City Name
- State Code
- Zip + 4
- Congressional District
- Country Name
- Country Code
- Organization Type

⁵ <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Guidance-for-State-Territorial-Local-and-Tribal-Governments.pdf>

⁶ A DUNS number is a unique nine-character number used to identify an organization.

12. If a sub-recipient does not have a DUNS number, can another unique identification number be used in the GrantSolutions portal to automatically populate sub-recipient details (e.g. Federal Employment Identification Number, Federal Tax Identification Number, etc.)?

No. The DUNS number is the only unique identification number that the GrantSolutions portal can associate with a SAM.gov registration in order to automatically populate sub-recipient details.

13. Where does a prime recipient direct a sub-recipient to obtain a DUNS number?

If a sub-recipient does not already have a DUNS number, they can call 1-866-705-5711 or access <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> to get a DUNS number assigned for free.

14. Where does a prime recipient direct a sub-recipient to register in SAM.gov?

Refer the sub-recipient to <https://sam.gov>.

15. What if a sub-recipient is not registered in SAM.gov?

For each sub-recipient that is not registered in SAM.gov, the prime recipient will be responsible for manually entering the following data elements in the GrantSolutions portal:

- Legal Name
- Address Line 1
- Address Line 2, if applicable
- Address Line 3, if applicable
- City Name
- State Code
- Zip Code
- Country Name (selection menu)
- Organization Type (selection menu)

16. If a sub-recipient is registered in SAM.gov, are they required to report any information on a quarterly basis in SAM.gov?

No. There are no reporting requirements for a sub-recipient; the prime recipient is required to report in the GrantSolutions portal on behalf of the sub-recipient.

17. *Is an entity that a prime recipient obligates a contract, grant, loan, direct payment, or transfer to another government entity of less than \$50,000 recommended to register in SAM.gov?*

No. Detailed information of an entity that the prime recipient obligates less than \$50,000 to will not be reported in the GrantSolutions portal. The obligations and related expenditure(s) to entities that the prime recipient obligates less than \$50,000 to will be reported in the aggregate.

18. *Is an individual that a prime recipient obligates a contract, grant, loan, or direct payment recommended to register in SAM.gov?*

No. Detailed information of an individual that the prime recipient obligates any amount to will not be reported in the GrantSolutions portal; the obligations and related expenditure(s) to individuals will be reported in the aggregate.

C. Terminology

19. *What is an obligation?*

For purposes of reporting in the GrantSolutions portal, an obligation is a commitment to pay a third party with CRF proceeds based on a contract, grant, loan, or other arrangement.

20. *What is an expenditure?*

For purposes of reporting in the GrantSolutions portal, an expenditure is the amount that has been incurred as a liability of the entity (the service has been rendered or the good has been delivered to the entity). As outlined in *Treasury's Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments*, performance or delivery must occur between March 1 and December 30, 2020 in order for the cost to be considered incurred; payment of funds need not be made during that time (though it is generally expected that payment will take place within 90 days of a cost being incurred).

21. *What is a project?*

A project is a grouping of related activities that together are intended to achieve a specific goal (e.g. building a temporary medical facility, offering an economic support program for small businesses, offering a housing support program, etc.)

22. *What is a contract?*

A contract is an obligation to an entity associated with an agreement to acquire goods or services.

23. *What is a grant?*

A grant is an obligation to an entity that is associated with a grant agreement. A grant agreement is a legal instrument of financial assistance between the prime recipient and entity that is used to enter into a relationship to carry out a public purpose and does not include an agreement to acquire goods or services or provide a loan.

24. *What is the primary place of performance for a contract or a grant?*

The primary place of performance is the address where the predominant performance of the contract or grant will be accomplished.

25. *What is the period of performance start date and end date for a contract or a grant?*

The period of performance start date is the date on which efforts begin or the contract or grant is otherwise effective. The period of performance end date is the date on which all effort is completed or the contract or grant is otherwise ended.

26. *What is a transfer to another government entity?*

A transfer to another government entity is a disbursement or payment to a government entity that is legally distinct from the prime recipient. See the list of government entities in Question 26 below.

27. *For transfers to another government entity, what type of entity is considered another government entity?*

The following organization types are considered another government entity:

- State government
- County government
- City/Township Government
- Special District Government
- US Territory or Possession
- Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Federally Recognized)
- Indian/Native American Tribal Designated Organization

28. *What is a direct payment?*

A direct payment is a disbursement (with or without an existing obligation) to an entity that is not associated with a contract, grant, loan, or transfer to another government entity. If the direct payment is associated with an obligation, then the obligation and expenditure should be reported. If the direct payment does not

involve a previous obligation, the direct payment will be recorded when the expenditure is incurred.

D. Reporting

29.If a prime recipient received CARES Act funding from different Federal agencies, are all costs incurred related to CARES funding to be reported in the GrantSolutions portal, regardless of the funding source?

No. The GrantSolutions portal is only for the reporting of costs incurred related to CRF proceeds received from Treasury. Financial assistance that a prime recipient may have received from other sources are not to be reported in this portal.

30.Will CRF proceeds be subject to Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting requirements? If so, what general information are recipients expected to report?

No, FFATA reporting is not required since CRF payments are not grants.

31.Are prime recipients required to report on an accrual or cash basis?

The prime recipient should report on an accrual basis, unless the prime recipient's practice is traditionally to report on a cash basis for all its financial reporting.

32.Are the reporting requirements different for lump sum payments versus payments made on a reimbursable basis?

No. Reporting of obligations and expenditures related to lump sum payments and reimbursed payments are the same.

33.How should a reimbursable payment to a sub-recipient be reported?

The prime recipient should first report the total obligation to the sub-recipient. As reimbursements are made to the sub-recipient, the prime recipient should report the reimbursements as expenditures to the obligation by expenditure category.

34.How should a lump sum payment to a sub-recipient be reported?

The prime recipient must report the total obligation for the lump sum payment to the sub-recipient. As the sub-recipient uses the funds it received, the prime recipient is responsible for collecting and reporting on the uses as expenditures to the obligation by expenditure category.

35. *What level of sub-recipient data will prime recipients be required to report?*

The prime recipient is required to report on the first sub-recipient level only. For example: The prime recipient enters into a grant with Entity A to provide assistance to small businesses. For reporting purposes, the prime recipient must report the details of the grant with Entity A as an obligation. As Entity A provides assistance to small businesses, the prime recipient must report the assistance provided as expenditures to the obligation. However, details of the small businesses that received funding is not required.

36. *Is every obligation and expenditure required to be associated with a project?*

No. We understand that not all uses of funds will be associated with a project. If an obligation or expenditure is not associated with a project, in the GrantSolutions portal, the recipient would select “No Associated Project”.

37. *How did Treasury OIG determine the \$50,000 reporting threshold?*

Sec. 15011 of the CARES Act states that any entity that receives large covered funds (or funds more than \$150,000) is considered a covered recipient. All prime recipients of CRF proceeds are covered recipients as no prime recipient received payment less than \$150,000. Sec. 15011 further requires that each covered recipient (in this case, prime recipient) should submit a report that contains, among other items, detailed information on subcontracts or subgrants awarded by the covered recipient allowing for aggregate reporting on awards below \$50,000.

38. *Is the \$50,000 threshold on a project basis?*

No. The \$50,000 threshold dictates the specific sub-recipients that must be identified by the prime recipient on a detailed basis rather than in an aggregate total for related obligations and expenditures, regardless of any projects.

39. *What is the reporting structure?*

The reporting structure is as follows:

- A. Projects
- B. Obligations of \$50,000 or more and related expenditures
 - a. Contracts of \$50,000 or more
 - i. Obligations (individually reported) and links to projects, if applicable
 - ii. Related expenditures (individually reported) and link to projects, if applicable
 - b. Grants of \$50,000 or more
 - i. Obligations (individually reported) and link to projects, if applicable

- ii. Related expenditures (individually reported) and link to projects, if applicable
- c. Loans of \$50,000 or more
 - i. Obligations (individually reported) and link to projects, if applicable
 - ii. Related expenditures (individually reported) and link to projects, if applicable
- d. Transfers to other government entities of \$50,000 or more
 - i. Obligations (individually reported) and link to projects, if applicable
 - ii. Related expenditures (individually reported) and link to projects, if applicable
- e. Direct Payments of \$50,000 or more
 - i. Obligations (individually reported) and link to projects, if applicable
 - ii. Related expenditures (individually reported) and link to projects, if applicable
- C. Aggregate obligations and expenditures of contracts, grants, loans, direct payments, and transfers to other government entities below \$50,000 (reported in total by obligation type)
- D. Aggregate obligations and expenditures to individuals, regardless of the amount (reported in total)

40.If a prime recipient obligates funds to another government entity in the form of a grant, are the obligated funds to be reported as a transfer to another government entity or as a grant?

If a grant agreement in place, the obligation should be reported as a grant.

41. *Treasury OIG's reporting timeline indicates six reporting cycles with three cycles for reporting periods of January 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021. If costs related to CRF proceeds must be incurred by December 30, 2020, why are there reporting cycles after December 30, 2020?*

Treasury's *Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments* addresses the concept of incurred costs. Specifically, "for a cost to be considered to have been incurred, performance of services or delivery of goods must occur during the covered period (March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020) but payment of funds need not be made during that time (though it is generally expected that this will take place within 90 days of a cost being incurred)." As a result, we determined to allow reporting through September 30, 2021 to ensure that the prime recipient has sufficient time to capture and report all expenditures incurred that were covered with CRF, including loan repayments, the related obligations of which must have occurred, and been reported, during the covered period. In addition, any final close out reconciliations and adjustments should occur during the time period before September 30, 2021.

42. *Are forgivable loans to be reported as a grant or loan?*

The forgivable portion of a loan should be reported as a grant. If the forgiving of the loan is conditional, then the loan will originally be reported as a loan for the total amount. At the time that the conditions are met, the portion of the loan that is forgivable, will be removed from the loan section of the GrantSolutions portal and reported as a grant at that time.

43. *For each reporting period, should a prime recipient report all costs that are eligible to be covered with CRF proceeds or only report costs for which the prime recipient has made a final determination to cover with CRF proceeds?*

The prime recipient should only report eligible costs for which obligations have been made with CRF payments or specific determinations have been made related to using CRF funds.

44. *Do the expenditure categories apply to aggregate reporting?*

No. The only information collected during aggregate reporting are obligations (in total) and expenditures (in total) by obligation type (contract, grant, loan, transfer to another government entity, and direct payments) and for individuals.

45. For aggregate reporting of obligations to individuals, what information is required to be reported about the individuals?

None. The only information collected during aggregate reporting are obligations (in total) and expenditures (in total).

46. Where can recipients and sub-recipients access training tools or archived training sessions to assist with reporting?

The only entity responsible for reporting in the portal is the prime recipient. Training on the GrantSolutions portal will be provided to prime recipients by September 1, 2020.

E. Reporting Corrections

47. If a prime recipient submitted information in its interim report of costs incurred as of June 30, 2020 and some information has changed, can we correct this information in the portal?

Yes. Keep in mind that for purposes of meeting the interim reporting requirement, reporting estimated costs incurred was allowed. For the first quarterly reporting period (March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020) beginning September 1, 2020, the prime recipient must report actual obligations and expenditures in the GrantSolutions portal. The amounts reported in the GrantSolutions portal and certified will be considered the official reporting.

48. If an error is identified or an addition/modification needs to be made, is there an ability to amend the previous submitted data?

Yes, if a prime recipient determines corrections or additions are necessary, the current GrantSolutions submission may be recalled, corrected, and resubmitted within the first 10 days after the quarter end. Also, changes to a previous quarterly submission may be made in a current reporting submission. If a Treasury OIG reviewer determines corrections or additions to the quarterly submission may be required, feedback and the submission will be returned to the prime recipient for resolution. The prime recipient is ultimately responsible for certifying that the quarterly submissions are true, complete, and accurate in the GrantSolutions portal. If an error is identified or a modification needs to be made after a report is already approved by the Treasury OIG, the prime recipient will need to make the modification or correction in the next quarterly reporting cycle.

49. *For forgivable loans originally reported as a grant, in a subsequent reporting period, if the recipient has not met the terms of forgiveness, should this obligation be changed to a loan in subsequent reporting period?*

See question 41 above. The loan should be recorded as a loan in total until the condition is met. Only at that time will the forgivable portion of the loan be removed and recorded as a grant.

50. *Is there a process to modify prior quarter numbers that change significantly due to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance reimbursement?*

Yes, if a prime recipient determines corrections or additions to a quarterly submission are necessary and the quarterly submission has already been approved by Treasury OIG, changes to a previous quarterly submission may be made in the subsequent reporting submission. The prime recipient will not be able to re-open the previous quarter, but instead will make necessary adjustments in the open quarter. The prime recipient is ultimately responsible for certifying that the quarterly submissions are true, complete, and accurate in the GrantSolutions portal.

51. *If a prime recipient reports a cost allocated to the CRF in one reporting cycle, but subsequently determines to allocate that cost to a different funding source, can the prime recipient remove the obligations and related expenditures from its CRF reporting submission?*

Yes, if a prime recipient determines corrections or additions to a quarterly submission are necessary and the quarterly submission has already been approved by Treasury OIG, changes to a previous quarterly submission may be made in the subsequent reporting submission. The prime recipient will not be able to re-open the previous quarter, but instead will make necessary adjustments in the open quarter. The prime recipient is ultimately responsible for certifying that the quarterly submissions are true, complete, and accurate in the GrantSolutions portal.

Keep in mind, if a prime recipient has not used funds it has received to cover costs that incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020, as required by the statute, those funds must be returned to the Treasury.

52. *Do we need a budget set up for FEMA Cares Act monies received or just to track and report monies used?*

The prime recipient is required to report obligations and expenditures of CRF proceeds. It is at the discretion of the prime recipient to determine a budget setup related to CRF payments.

F. Reporting Deadline

53. Can the CRF reporting submission deadline be modified to 30 days, opposed to 10 days, after the quarter end?

We do not have the authority to change the quarterly recipient reporting deadline. Section 15011 of the CARES Act requires CRF reporting within 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter. Prime recipients' GrantSolutions data will be reported to the Pandemic Response and Accountability Committee (PRAC) for display on its website.

54. Can a prime recipient request extensions in filing their quarterly reports?

Yes, requests to extend the quarterly reporting deadline should be sent to Treasury OIG at CARES@oig.treas.gov for extension approval/disapproval. These decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and consider extenuating circumstances.

55. If a prime recipient does not close its records by 10 days after the reporting period ends, how should these costs be reported?

Record closing times vary and may not align with the GrantSolutions reporting deadlines. If a prime recipient is not able to report within 10 days after the reporting period ends, the prime recipient is responsible for submitting the missing data in the GrantSolutions portal as part of the next quarter's reporting cycle.

G. GrantSolutions Portal

56. Is the portal still on schedule for becoming available on September 1, 2020?

Yes for most users. An upload feature will be available for select very high volume prime recipients. The upload feature will be available after September and timing of that schedule will be communicated to those select recipients.

57. If a prime recipient's designated users already have accounts with GrantSolutions, does the prime recipient still need to submit each user's name, title, email address, and phone number to Treasury OIG?

Yes.

58. Can portal access be granted to users if they share the same email address?

No. In order to grant portal access, each user must have a unique email address; users cannot have the same email address.

59. *Can a prime recipient designate more than two preparers?*

No. The GrantSolutions portal can only sustain up to three users per prime recipient: two preparers and one authorizing official.

60. *Can the authorizing official also be one of the preparers?*

No. The authorizing official cannot be both a designee/preparer and an authorizing official.

61. *What is the best way to import data from a large number of sub-recipients?*

Only the prime recipient is required to report CRF related obligations and expenditures in the GrantSolutions portal. We are currently working with GrantSolutions regarding a data upload feature. The upload feature will be available for certain prime recipients with the most sub-recipient activity. See question 55.

62. *Will the portal provide a cumulated view of obligations and expenditures a prime recipient has reported?*

Yes.

H. Record Retention/Audit

63. *According to Treasury's FAQs, for administrative convenience, a State can presume that all payroll costs for public health and public safety employees are payments for services substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency and, thus, can be covered by CRF. Will Treasury OIG or the PRAC ever question the applicability of this presumption in the audit context? If so, under what circumstances?*

During its reviews and audits, Treasury OIG will allow the use of the administrative accommodation made in accordance Treasury's FAQs. See responses to related questions 69, 70, and 71.

64. *How far down will the audit cascade?*

The CARES Act provides that Treasury OIG is responsible for monitoring and oversight of the receipt, disbursement, and use of CRF payments. As such, all CRF payments received by the prime recipient are subject to audit. In this regard, an audit will be at the prime recipient level and may involve reviewing the prime's sub-recipients. In the event that it is determined the prime recipient failed to comply with requirements of subsection 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 801(d)), those funds will be recouped by Treasury OIG.

65. *If providing Small Business Assistance, do we have to receive actual documentation of the expense or business interruption? If we provide thousands of grants to small businesses and are audited, what would be need to provide to satisfy an audit?*

The prime recipient of CRF payments must maintain and make available to Treasury OIG upon request, all documents and financial records sufficient to establish compliance with subsection 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 801(d)). Records include, but are not limited to, general ledger and subsidiary ledgers used to account for (a) the receipt of CRF payments and (b) the disbursements from such payments to meet eligible expenses related to the public health emergency due to COVID-19. The prime recipient is responsible for determining the level and detail of documentation needed from the sub-recipient of Small Business Assistance to satisfy these requirements, however, there would need to be some proof that the small business was impacted by the public health emergency and was thus eligible for the CRF funds.

66. *Is there an audit plan at this point? For example, will there be interim audits, or only after Dec 30 or final reporting? Also, do you have criteria upon which you will decide which awards to audit?*

Treasury OIG will perform monitoring of the prime recipient's receipt, disbursements, and uses of CRF payments and has developed procedures for this purpose. There are procedures for monitoring, reviewing, and approving prime recipient's quarterly GrantSolutions submissions. Treasury OIG will also conduct desk reviews, for which other procedures have been developed, to further evaluate the prime recipient's documentation supporting the reported uses of CRF proceeds, as well as, results of other audits (i.e. Single Audit), among other things. The desk review may result in a site visit to the prime recipient for a more in-depth review. Based on results of the quarterly monitoring, desk reviews, site reviews, and our risk assessments, Treasury OIG will determine the need for a more in-depth audit. In addition to ongoing monitoring, Treasury OIG will initiate audits as deemed necessary based on other referrals and ongoing risk assessments of the prime recipients.

67. *Will Treasury OIG audit the sub-recipient as part of its prime recipient audit?*

Treasury OIG may audit the sub-recipient as part of its audit of the prime recipient.

68. *What cost principles will Treasury OIG be applying to determine allowability of costs during audit if Subpart E of 2 CFR 200 is not applicable to this funding?*

The CARES Act and the Treasury guidance and FAQs will be used as criteria for allowability of costs. According to Treasury's FAQs, provisions of the Uniform

Guidance, 2 C.F.R. sec. 200.303 regarding internal controls, 2 C.F.R. sec. 200.330 through 200.332 regarding sub-recipient monitoring and management, and subpart F regarding audit requirements are applicable to CRF payments. Subpart E is not applicable.

69. *How does the CRF audit relate to Single Audit?*

CRF payments are considered to be Federal financial assistance subject to the Single Audit Act (31 U.S.C. sec. 7501-7507). The related provisions of the Uniform Guidance, 2 C.F.R. sec. 200.303 regarding internal controls, sec. 200.330 through 200.332 regarding sub-recipient monitoring and management, and subpart F regarding audit requirements provides detailed information. The results of a prime recipient's Single Audit will be evaluated as part of the Treasury OIG's desk reviews and any audits initiated.

70. *To what level of documentation will a government be held to support the reimbursement of public health and safety payroll that was "presumed" to be substantially dedicated to mitigating the emergency?*

The recipient of CRF payments must maintain and make available to Treasury OIG upon request, all documents and financial records sufficient to establish compliance with subsection 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 801(d)). Documents/records include payroll records for the covered period March 1 through December 30, 2020. Records include, but are not limited to (1) general and subsidiary ledgers used to account for the receipt of CRF payments and subsequent disbursements; and (2) payroll, time, and human resource records to support costs incurred for payroll expenses. Please refer to the Treasury OIG memorandum, Coronavirus Relief Fund Reporting and Record Retention Requirements (OIG-20-021; July 2, 2020). These document requirements apply to supporting payroll reimbursement amounts using CRF proceeds and not to support the presumption that public health and safety payroll is substantially dedicated to mitigating the emergency.

a. *Will a government have to demonstrate/substantiate that a public health or public safety employee's function/duties were in fact substantially dedicated to mitigating the emergency?*

No, the government will not have to demonstrate/substantiate that a public health or public safety employee's function/duties were substantially dedicated to mitigating the emergency but must maintain records and documentation supporting payroll amounts reimbursed using CRF proceeds. As indicated in Treasury's Guidance, as an administrative accommodation, governments may presume that public health and public safety employees meet the substantially dedicated test, unless the chief executive (or

equivalent) of the relevant government determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise. Treasury's FAQs add that entire payroll cost of an employee whose time is substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency is eligible, provided that such payroll costs are incurred by December 30, 2020.

- b. For payroll that was accounted for in the FY2020 budget but was then "presumed" to be substantially dedicated to mitigating the emergency, will the government have to demonstrate/substantiate that a public health or public safety employee's function was a substantially different use?***

No, the government will not have to demonstrate/substantiate that a budgeted public health or public safety employee's function was a substantially different use. As stated in Treasury's Guidance, within the category of substantially different uses, Treasury has included payroll and benefits expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID19 public health emergency. The Treasury OIG does require the government to maintain budgetary records to support the fiscal years 2019 and 2020 budgets.

- 71. Is the government required to perform any analysis or maintain documentation of the "substantially dedicated" conclusion for payroll expenses of public safety, public health, health care, and human service employees?***

No, the government is not required to perform an analysis or maintain documentation of the substantially dedicated conclusion for payroll expenses of public safety, public health, health care, and human service employees. As indicated in Treasury's Guidance, as an administrative accommodation, governments may presume that public health and public safety employees meet the substantially dedicated test, unless the chief executive (or equivalent) of the relevant government determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise. Please refer to response to question 69.

- 72. Treasury's FAQs indicate a "State, territorial, local, or Tribal government may presume that payroll costs for public health and public safety employees are payments for services substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency, unless the chief executive (or equivalent) of the relevant government determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise."***

- a. What level of documentation needs to be maintained to indicate the chief executive did not determine "specific circumstances indicate otherwise?"***

No documentation of the negative assurance of the chief executive (or equivalent) is required.

- b. Is the absence of documentation indicating “specific circumstances indicate otherwise” sufficient, or does an affirmative decision need to be documented?***

See previous responses.

***73. Are CRF funds required to be accounted for in a separate fund of the government?
At least one state thinks it should be.***

These are individual management decisions, however, the documentation required above should be easily understandable by the auditors.