

Notice of Funding Opportunity

\$42.5M Available for Asylum Seeker Support

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) has been asked to make counties aware that \$42.5 million was appropriated to the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to assist eligible local governments with defraying costs associated with providing services to asylum seekers.

While the program is entitled “Supporting Municipalities for Asylum Seeker Services (SMASS),” the definition of “municipality” is “any level of public government within the State of Illinois.”

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC), under contract with IDHS, will manage the distribution and administration of the grant funding.

If your county is currently receiving and/or providing services to asylum seekers*, the application is now available for funding the grant.

[Apply Now](#)

Types of Services Eligible

Shelter & Transitional Housing

Wraparound Services

Legal Assistance

Health & Wellness

Food

Timeline

NOFO Released: August 21, 2023, see full [Notice of Opportunity](#)

NOFO Info Session: August 29, 2023, at 10:00 am via this [Zoom link](#)

Letter of Intent Due: August 31, 2023, by 5:00pm CST [complete online](#)

Letters of Intent should be submitted by all municipalities anticipating applying as Lead Municipality Applicants. Failure to submit an LOI will not result in the inability of a municipality to apply for funding. They are for internal planning purposes and are used to inform the application review process. You will receive confirmation of receipt, but a formal invitation pending a Letter of Intent submission is NOT needed to complete the application.

Application Deadline: September 15, 2023, by 5:00pm CST [complete online application](#)

Award Announcement: September 29, 2023

Grant Term: SFY24 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

Pre-award allowable expenses can be retroactive to July 1, 2023.

Maximum Grant Amount: Estimated range of awards contingent upon the number of qualified applications and demonstrated need.

[Learn More](#)

***Definition of “Asylum Seeker”**

“Asylum seeker is defined as “an individual who crossed the Mexico/U.S. border on or after August 1, 2022, with the intent to stay permanently, and who does not possess any permanent or interim U.S. legal status (which does not include being in parole status), such as legal permanent residency, a student or work visa, etc.”