Social Impact Partnerships to Pay for Results Act (SIPPRA)
Public Law 115-123, Division E, Title VIII, 132 Stat. 269, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1397n–1397n-13
Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

What is SIPPRA?

The Social Impact Partnership to Pay for Results Act (SIPPRA) was signed into law on February 9, 2018 and is intended to improve the effectiveness of certain social services. The federal government will pay for a project only if predetermined project outcomes have been met and validated by an independent evaluator, a system called a "pay for results partnership." Congress appropriated $100 million for the SIPPRA program to implement "Social Impact Partnership Demonstration Projects" and feasibility studies to prepare for those projects. The SIPPRA program is largely administered by the Department of the Treasury (Treasury).

Who is eligible to apply for and receive a SIPPRA grant?

Only State and local governments are eligible to apply for SIPPRA funding.

"State" is defined in SIPPRA to include each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian tribe.

"Local Government" means any unit of government within a State, including a—(a) County; (b) Borough; (c) Municipality; (d) City; (e) Town; (f) Township; (g) Parish; (h) Local public authority, including any public housing agency under the United States Housing Act of 1937; (i) Special district; (j) School district; (k) Intrastate district; (l) Council of governments, whether or not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law; and (m) Any other agency or instrumentality of a multi-, regional, or intra-State or local government. See 2 CFR § 200.64).

Which types of projects qualify for SIPPRA funding?

SIPPRA provides funding for pay for results projects. Under SIPPRA, Treasury will award grants for pay-for-results projects designed to produce one of 21 outcomes listed in 42 U.S.C. § 1397n-1(b). See Appendix A. SIPPRA also provides more limited funding to support pay-for-results feasibility studies. (See FAQs on Outcome Project Awards and Feasibility Studies Awards below.)

Where can I get more information?

Treasury is developing a website that will have a link enabling sign-ups to a SIPPRA email distribution list for future announcements. These FAQs will be updated periodically with additional information.

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Can I submit comments on SIPPRA implementation? Will Treasury make comments public?

Yes. Interested parties will be able to submit comments on SIPPRA implementation to Treasury's forthcoming SIPPRA website. Treasury will make all comments publicly available.

My question is not on this FAQ list. Who can I ask?

The forthcoming SIPPRA website will provide a means of asking questions. We will provide additional information as it becomes available, via updates to these FAQs, the SIPPRA website, and the SIPPRA email distribution list.

What criteria will Treasury use to select projects for funding?

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will include detailed information on the criteria Treasury will consider in selecting projects for funding, including those contained in SIPPRA. 42 U.S.C. § 1397n-2(b).

Project Awards

When will the SIPPRA Notice of Funding Availability for projects be published?

Treasury anticipates publishing the NOFA for projects in the *Federal Register* no later than early February 2019.

What is the application deadline for project applications?

The NOFA will provide the deadline for project applications.

Will I be required to work with an evaluator?

Yes. SIPPRA requires that an independent evaluator determine whether project outcomes have been met before the federal government can make payments based on those validated outcomes. 42 U.S.C. § 1397n-2(c)(2).

In addition, SIPPRA contemplates that State and local governments work with an independent evaluator in preparing the project application. For example, SIPPRA requires that each project application contain a detailed description of the role and responsibility of the independent evaluator, its experience, and the evaluation metrics. 42 U.S.C. § 1397n-1(c)(12), (21), and (22).

Do I have to pay for the evaluator?

Yes, at least in part. SIPPRA provides that for each approved State or local government project, all or part of the costs of the independent evaluation will be borne by the federal government.

Because SIPPRA also limits the amount of SIPPRA funding that may be used to pay for evaluations, Treasury does not anticipate being able to bear all of the costs for the independent evaluation.

Treasury will not reimburse State or local governments for any independent evaluator costs incurred prior to the execution of an award agreement.

Are there specific metrics a grant recipient must meet in order to receive payments after a project is completed?

Treasury expects to publish these details in the Notice of Funding Availability.

How many SIPPRA project awards will Treasury make?

The number of project awards will depend on the quality and viability of project applications and the amount of funds requested by individual applicants. Without pre-judging the outcome, Treasury anticipates making five to ten awards.

What is the period of performance for a SIPPRA outcome project?

SIPPRA does not establish a minimum performance period for projects. Treasury expects that the Notice of Funding Availability will provide that the timeline for implementation and completion of the project must be completed within seven years.

Is there a matching funds requirement for projects?

No. SIPPRA does not require that a recipient provide matching funds for a project.

Will applicants be required to show the commitments of an intermediary and financing partner(s) at the time of application?

The Act does not require that an applicant partner with project intermediary and/or financing partners. For projects that will include a project intermediary and/or a financing partner(s), Treasury expects that applicants will be required to provide as part of their application letters of commitment from these partners. The letters of commitment may state the commitment is conditional on a SIPPRA award.

Can you recommend a good intermediary, financier and other project partners?

No. Treasury is unable to provide specific recommendations or referrals for project partners. However, information on the pay for success financing model and "lessons learned" is available from many online sources. Some organizations may offer technical assistance to interested States and local governments. These sources may be helpful to applicants seeking project partners.

Feasibility Study Awards

When will a Notice of Funding Availability for feasibility studies be published?

Treasury expects to publish a NOFA for feasibility studies in 2019.

Will a Notice of Funding Availability for feasibility studies be published concurrently with the Notice of Funding Availability for projects?

No. A Notice of Funding Availability for projects will be published before the NOFA for feasibility studies.

What is the period of performance for a SIPPRA feasibility study?

Feasibility studies must be completed no later than nine months following the date of receipt of funding.

Is there a matching funds requirement for feasibility studies?

SIPPRA requires a grant recipient to provide at least 50% of the funding for a feasibility study.

How many feasibility study awards will be made?

The number of feasibility awards under SIPPRA will depend on the quality and viability of project applications and the amount of funds requested by individual applicants.

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Appendix A – SIPPRA Outcomes – 42 U.S.C. § 1397n-1(b)

To qualify as a social impact partnership project under the Act, a project must produce one or more measurable, clearly-defined outcomes that result in social benefit and Federal, State, or local savings through the following:

1. Increasing earnings and work by individuals in the United States who are unemployed for more than 6 consecutive months.
2. Increasing employment and earnings of individuals who have attained 16 years of age but not 25 years of age.
3. Increasing employment among individuals receiving Federal disability benefits.
4. Reducing the dependence of low-income families on Federal means-tested benefits.
5. Improving rates of high school graduation.
6. Reducing teen and unplanned pregnancies.
7. Improving birth outcomes and early childhood health and development among low-income families and individuals.
8. Reducing rates of asthma, diabetes, or other preventable diseases among low-income families and individuals to reduce the utilization of emergency and other high-cost care.
9. Increasing the proportion of children living in two-parent families.
10. Reducing incidences and adverse consequences of child abuse and neglect.
11. Reducing the number of youth in foster care by increasing adoptions, permanent guardianship arrangements, reunifications, or placements with a fit and willing relative, or by avoiding placing children in foster care by ensuring they can be cared for safely in their own homes.
12. Reducing the number of children and youth in foster care residing in group homes, child care institutions, agency-operated foster homes, or other non-family foster homes, unless it is determined that it is in the interest of the child's long-term health, safety, or psychological well-being to not be placed in a family foster home.
13. Reducing the number of children returning to foster care.

14. Reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders, individuals released from prison, and other high-risk populations.

15. Reducing the rate of homelessness among our most vulnerable populations.

16. Improving the health and well-being of those with mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs.

17. Improving the educational outcomes of special-needs or low-income children.

18. Improving the employment and well-being of returning United States military members.

19. Increasing the financial stability of low-income families.

20. Increasing the independence and employability of individuals who are physically or mentally disabled.

21. Other measurable outcomes defined by the state or local government that result in positive social outcomes and Federal savings.