



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Amendment to the Voluntary Agencies Matching Grant Program FY 2020 Program Guidelines

This amendment supersedes any conflicting guidance in the FY 2020 Program Guidelines and all other Matching Grant (MG) terms and conditions remain applicable unless adjusted through other action.

Effective immediately, and with the goal of sustaining MG clients enrolled in FY 2020 and maintaining MG service capacity through September 30, 2020, the Acting ORR Director authorizes the following modifications to the MG Program:

- 1) **Activation of a Funding Exception** – A funding exception is activated to guarantee 75 percent of each grantee’s projected funding level for the current awards (January 1 – September 30, 2020) regardless of actual enrollments. This is to allow service providers to maintain capacity and flexibility to ensure clients enrolled in FY 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020) receive the critical services necessary to sustain themselves during this period. Agencies with enrollments that exceed 75% of their projected enrollments will continue to receive funds on a per capita basis or through the extended services provision below.
- 2) **Waiver of the Fixed Match Requirement** – The **fixed percentage match requirement for the entire FY 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020) period is waived.** However, the match remains an integral part of the MG Program and **grantees are expected to continue to seek and document match** in the form of cash, in-kind services, or donated goods.

If grantees wish to exercise this waiver, they should adjust their 424, 424a, and budget narratives as appropriate, to reflect this change.

- 3) **Extended Services for Clients Enrolled in FY 2020** – **ORR authorizes extended services for those MG clients** enrolled in FY 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020) **who are otherwise unable to meet core maintenance expenses** through employment. This includes **clients within their current 180-day MG service** and **those enrolled in FY 2020 who have previously exited the program but who are otherwise**

eligible for MG services. As the purpose of extension of services beyond 180 days is to enable clients to meet core maintenance expenses, the receipt of Unemployment Insurance, or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or Compensation would disqualify a client for extension of services. Receipt of other forms of ongoing cash assistance precludes continued participation in the MG Program. Certain COVID-19 emergency payments (e.g. 2020 Economic Impact Payments) would not preclude participation in the MG program.

Grantees must fully justify extended services in the MG casefile for each case extended beyond the usual 180-day MG service period.

Cases may be extended more than once, if needed.

Extended core maintenance assistance must be uniformly administered across caseloads. Clients extending MG service beyond the usual 180-day MG service period must sign adjusted service agreements indicating that extended services will end on September 30, 2020, or at the point where MG self-sufficiency is achieved, whichever comes first.

All expenses beyond the grantee's usual per-capita funding and match must be justified on a monthly basis to ORR. Under no circumstances may grantees exceed their available funding.