

73	<p>I have a clarifying question regarding allowable expenditures under the Coronavirus Community Support and Recovery Fund.</p> <p>May an organization apply to provide assistance to undocumented immigrants (who are not eligible for federal stimulus payments) in the form of a Visa gift card? I'm not sure if this falls under the prohibition against "direct cash assistance." The administrative requirements indicate, in Section 12, that stipends and subsistence allowances and other goods and services are allowable with prior approval (see below). Can you clarify for me where Visa gift cards would fall?</p> <p><i>Direct Assistance to Beneficiary</i> <i>Participant support costs for items such as wages, payroll taxes, benefits, stipends, subsistence allowances, travel allowances and the cost of food, clothing, and other goods and services purchased directly on behalf of clients are allowable only with the prior Written Approval of the Department.</i></p>	<p>Stipends are allowable with written approval and documentation. Gift cards have not been allowed in the past. It is preferred that the agency pay for what is needed instead of giving gift cards to recipients.</p>
74	<p>Providing food via a food pantry for pick-up and dropping off at homes when pick-up is not possible -- would we be seeking a vendor contract? If we wished to budget some staff time, would the contract then become Social Services?</p>	<p>Offerors are encouraged to describe the program they seek to deliver and there is no need to propose the type of contract being sought. The City will determine the correct contracting vehicle based on the awarded Offer. Note that budgeting staff time is an allowable expense, but would not fit in a vendor contract while it would fit in a social services contract.</p>
75	<p>I have one clarifying question about allowable costs in the form of gas cards. The organization I am working with would like to be able to provide families with pre-loaded cards they could use at gas stations to offset travel burdens for low-income families. Would this be an allowable cost? If so, would it qualify as direct assistance (described below from Administrative Guidelines) and thus require prior written approval?</p> <p><i>Direct Assistance to Beneficiary</i> <i>Participant support costs for items such as wages, payroll taxes, benefits, stipends, subsistence allowances, travel allowances and the cost of food, clothing, and other goods and services purchased directly on behalf of clients are allowable only with the prior Written Approval of the Department.</i></p>	<p>Stipends are allowable with written approval and documentation. Gift cards have not been allowed in the past. It is preferred that the agency pay for what is needed instead of giving gift cards to recipients.</p>
76	<p>Is the source of these funds from the City or are they federal dollars? Can the funds awarded be combined with other federal sources of rental assistance? For example for tenants at our LIHTC properties.</p>	<p>The source of funds are City General Funds (not federal funding). The limiting factor on how funds need to be segregated would be guided by the federal funding regulations.</p>