



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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2nd Amendment to the Voluntary Agencies Matching Grant Program FY 2020 Program Guidelines – September 30, 2020

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, the Acting ORR Director authorizes the following modifications to the MG Program:

- 1) Extension of Program Flexibilities:** Except as stated herein, all program flexibilities authorized by the April 28, 2020 amendment to the FY 2020 MG Program Guidelines, to address the impact of COVID-19, will remain in effect through January 31, 2021.

- 2) Extended Services¹ for Clients Enrolled in FY 2020** – The flexibilities for Extended Services remain in effect through January 31, 2021, with the following adjustment: ORR authorizes extended services for those MG clients enrolled after October 1, 2019, 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. Clients who accessed other cash assistance programs (e.g., Refugee Cash Assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) are not eligible for extended MG services unless they no longer qualify for those programs. MG clients enrolled prior to October 1, 2019 should be referred to other services for which they may still be eligible. As the purpose of extension of services beyond 180 days is to enable clients to achieve self-sufficiency through continued employment related services, the receipt of Unemployment Insurance, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or other COVID-19 emergency payments (e.g., 2020 Economic Impact Payments)² would not disqualify³ a client for MG extended services. However, the program must document the receipt of such assistance and must offset MG core maintenance assistance.

¹ Extended services means the extension of services beyond the usual 180 day period and services that exceed that usual per capita for clients within their 180 day service period.

² For questions regarding what COVID-19 emergency assistance would disqualify a client from extended services, please contact Tom Giossi at Thomas.Giossi@acf.hhs.gov.

³ Please note that ORR has changed requirements surrounding unemployment payments from the April 28, 2020 Amendment to the MG Guidelines.