

Choose Life Fund Frequently Asked Questions

NOTE: Please be sure to seek assistance from your organization's own legal counsel or accountant prior to sending questions to ODH. We are not allowed to provide legal advice. Thank you!

1. **Question: My organization was awarded money for multiple locations, including contiguous counties. How does the money have to be spent by county?**

Answer: Your letter of award will show the amounts your organization was awarded by county. For counties in which your organization has locations, the money must be spent within that county. For contiguous counties, the money should be, but is not required to be spent for women who reside in that county.

2. **Question: Is the 60%/40% split based on the total funds spent by my organization, or the total funds that were awarded to my organization?**

Answer: The requirement that the organizations spend not more than 60% on material needs and not more than 40% on counseling, training, and advertising is based on the total amount of awarded funds rather than the total amount spent.

3. **Question: My organization has unspent funds in excess of 10% of our award amount. Do we need to return all of our unspent funds, or only 10%?**

Answer: Your organization must to return all unspent funds by the end of the award period (July 1).

4. **Question: My organization has unspent funds that are less than 10% of our award amount. What should we do with this money?**

Answer: Your organization can carry these funds over into the next state fiscal year for use as Choose Life Funds. These funds are still subject to the Choose Life Fund rules and need to be included in any financial reporting for the following year.

Your organization may also return these funds for redistribution the following year.

5. **Question: Can the counseling and training funds be spent for adoptive families or are they for birth families only?**

Answer: These funds are limited to use for birth families only.

6. Question: Can Choose Life Funds be spent on counselor/trainer salaries?

Answer: Yes; this falls under counseling, training, and advertising.

7. Question: Can Choose Life Funds be spent on mileage for staff to pick up a pregnant woman who is considering adoption?

Answer: Yes; this falls under material needs (transportation).

For additional questions unanswered by your organization's legal counsel or accountant, please contact Hilary Metelko at 614-466-4718 or Hilary.Metelko@odh.ohio.gov.