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Emergency Solutions Grant COVID-19 (ESG-CV2)

Frequently Asked Questions

Version: October 22, 2020

Note: HUD guidance for ESG-CV funds continues to evolve. OHCS will update the FAQ as new guidance is released and you can find the most up to date information from HUD [here](#).

1. Q: Where can I find more information about ESG and ESG-CV?
A: Please see [24 CFR §576](#) for ESG information. Please see [HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS \(ESG\) COVID-19 GRANTEE GUIDANCE](#) for COVID-19 specific information and the September 1, 2020 [waiver](#) (pages 3 and 4) for COVID specific definitions. COVID-19 specific changes supersede standard ESG guidance where it exists.
2. Q: What is the timeline for the Request for Applications (RFA) for the competitive process?
A:

Tentative Dates	Proposed Activity
Early October	OHCS submits Substantial Amendment to HUD Portland Field Office
Late October	OHCS Finalizes RFA and obtains Department of Justice (DOJ) approval
Early November	Post RFA on ORPIN and OHCS' website
Early/Mid-November	OHCS Conducts RFA pre-application webinar(s)
Late November	Application submission deadline
December - January	OHCS Completes application review/evaluation
January - February	OHCS Publishes notice of ESG-CV2 awards

When the RFA is posted, OHCS will send out this information widely. To ensure you receive this information you can sign up to [OHCS eNews](#) and select Agency News Releases and Housing Stabilization Updates. News releases will include the RFA pre-application webinar dates as well.

3. Q: Who is eligible to apply for the competitive ESG-CV2 funds?
A: Any entity qualifying as a “subrecipient” can apply. “Subrecipient” means a unit of general purpose local government or private nonprofit organization to which a recipient makes available ESG funds. (Note that *for-profit* subrecipients are not allowed.) For more information please see [24 CFR §576.2](#).
4. Q: How do I get in touch with my local CoC to learn more about HMIS data entry, coordinated entry, reporting requirements, general consultation and more? Note: The ESG Interim Rule (24 CFR Part 576) aligns the ESG program with the Continuum of Care (CoC) program (24 CFR Part

578) to facilitate coordination and foster efficient use of resources to prevent and end homelessness. Specifically, *implementation of the ESG-CV2 projects should be done in consultation with the regional CoC.*

A: Please find your region [here](#). For specific CoC contact information see below:

Continuum of Care REGION	CoC Lead Contacts
OR-500 - Eugene/Springfield/Lane County CoC	Amanda.borta@lanecountyor.gov
OR-501 - Portland/Gresham/Multnomah County CoC	bill.boyd@multco.us; steve.richard@multco.us; kaytee.evans@multco.us
OR-502 - Medford, Ashland/Jackson County CoC	cwilkerson@accesshelps.org
OR-503 - Central Oregon CoC	mollyh@neighborimpact.org; cochair@cohomedless.org; scottc@neighborimpact.org
OR-504 - Salem/Marion, Polk Counties CoC	Ashley.hamilton@mrvcaa.org; calvin.jan@yahoo.com
OR-505 - Oregon Balance of State CoC	jessica@caporegon.org; calbe@caporegon.org
OR-506 - Hillsboro/Beaverton/Washington County CoC	Annette_evans@co.washington.or.us; kgalian@caowash.org
OR-507 - Clackamas County CoC	abbyah@clackamas.us

5. Q: Can applicants apply directly for ESG-CV2 funds?

A: Yes, as long as an applicant meets the definition for eligible subrecipient they can apply for these funds.

6. Q: Can applicants apply collaboratively for ESG-CV2 funds?

A: Yes, as long as all applicants meet the definition for an eligible subrecipient, they can apply for these funds. The collaborative relationship can take multiple forms as long as it meets ESG guidelines and all applicants meet ESG the definition for eligible subrecipient.

7. Q: Does an applicant have to be a Continuum of Care (CoC)?

A: No. Applicants should consult with their CoC, but do not have to be a CoC.

8. Q: Can I apply for ESG-CV2 funds if I am not connected to an HMIS right now?

A: Yes, OHCS and your Continuum of Care (CoC) will support you in getting set-up with your CoC's HMIS. See this guide for detailed HMIS requirements and data elements collected.
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/ESG-Program-HMIS-Manual.pdf>

9. Q: Can I partner with another agency that currently uses HMIS to enter data on my behalf?

A: Absolutely, collaboration on data entry is a fantastic way to utilize an HMIS and collaborative data collection costs can be paid with ESG-CV funds.

10. Q: State priorities refer to non-congregate shelter (NCS). Are other physically distanced and safe distance shelters allowable?

A: Yes. NCS or safe shelter looks different in different communities. Please see [CDC guidance](#) for more information. OHCS supports projects that are appropriate, safe, and incorporate best practices; which are inclusive of but not limited to NCS models.

11. Q: Can projects serve multiple counties with one award?

A: Yes, projects can serve multiple counties within a Continuum of Care (CoC). If a project crosses CoC geographical boundaries, submitting an application in each CoC region and consulting with both CoCs is necessary. If multiple counties are served within one geographic CoC region, then only one application is required.

12. Q: Are allowable activities (emergency shelter, street outreach, rapid re-housing, and homeless prevention) equally weighted?

A: No. OHCS and HUD prioritizes focused funding for Emergency Shelter, Temporary Shelter, Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), and Street Outreach activities over Homelessness Prevention in order to meet the immediate needs of literally homeless individuals. Homeless Prevention may be allowed and awarded if the applicant can demonstrate extraordinary needs or that homeless individuals (sheltered and unsheltered) within their CoC Service Area are already housed and/or that certain populations are at greater risk of housing instability due to COVID-19. If the applicant sufficiently demonstrates the need has been met to house homeless individuals, the applicant may apply for funding for Homeless Prevention. See forthcoming RFA for additional details.

13. Q: What is the timeframe to spend ESG-CV2 funds?

A: HUD's expenditure deadlines included in the CPD-20-08 ESG-CV Notice, requires grantees (OHCS) to meet the following expenditure deadlines for ESG-CV2 funding. There will be more detailed information in the RFA, but OHCS must meet the following expenditure timeline:

Percentage of ESG-CV (Round 2) Award	Expenditure Deadline
20%	July 31, 2021
40%	September 30, 2021
60%	November 30, 2021
80%	January 31, 2022

14. Q: Can ESG-CV2 funds be used to purchase real property?

A: Yes, technically ESG-CV2 funds can be used for purchase of "real property" (hotels, parking lots, ancillary structures (i.e. pallet kits or Conestoga huts)). HUD should provide more guidance

on additional changes to this provision available in the coming months. **There are several key restrictions in the HUD guidance which may limit the feasibility of projects:**

- Temporary shelter funds must be spent by 1/31/2022.
- These funds (and any real property purchased) are meant to be used for coronavirus response (and are not to be repurposed later).
- Use and disposition of property are subject to 2 CRF 200.311. In summary, at the termination of the grant agreement, HUD would require reimbursement of the cost of the property or the property would need to be purchased from HUD.
- If your community prioritizes a permanent emergency shelter, please note that there are other possible sources of funds for acquisition such as Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP). ESG-CV funds used to pay for shelter services or operations are not required to be repaid to HUD and may be used in a shelter acquired or rehabilitated with other sources.

15. Q: Which categories of HUD homeless definition are eligible for services with ESG-CV2 funds?

A: All categories are eligible for applicable services. Please see page 3 and 4 of [ESG CV guidance](#) for a complete definition of HUD homeless categories.

16. Q: Can these dollars be used to fund case management that is matched to rental assistance dollars/vouchers used to serve eligible populations?

A: Yes, this is an allowable cost.

17. Q: Will we need to document a Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) connection to COVID-19?

A: Yes, you will need to document all expenses for the ESG-CV funding and demonstrate a direct connection to COVID-19 response and recovery. All services need to prepare, prevent, or respond to COVID-19.

18. Q: [May a single Rapid Re-Housing \(RRH\) project in a Homeless Management Information System \(HMIS\) that is funded by ESG also be funded by programs other than ESG like Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program \(SSVF\) or CoC Program funds?](#)

A: No, with one exception. Each RRH project should have its own project set-up in the HMIS to be able to generate required Federal reports. The only exception to this would be if the HMIS has been customized with the functionality to combine funding from multiple Federal programs into one project to generate the required reports

19. Q: Are activities related to the wildfires eligible?

A: If the activity is ESG-CV eligible and prevents, prepares for, or responds to COVID-19, it is eligible regardless of whether the proposed project also addresses the impact of the wildfires. There is no specific eligibility due to wildfires. Additionally, “duplication of benefits” is not allowed to occur during other federally-declared emergencies or disasters where a person or entity has received or will receive financial assistance for the same costs from any other source. See Section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for more information.

20. Q: How can I learn more?

A: Sign up for OHCS [eNews](#) and select Agency Updates and Housing Stabilization Updates.