

To: Gatekeepers
From: Homeless Services Section Staff
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Please distribute to: Executive Directors Fiscal Staff Homeless Services Program Staff
 Rental Assistance Program Staff

Category: Program Informational

Update For: COVID-19 ESG WAIVER

As a response to the COVID-19 emergency, HUD has offered temporary waivers of some federal ESG program requirements. OHCS's ESG subgrantees may, and subgrantees may instruct their subrecipients to, use any or all waivers listed below. Remember if your agency chooses to use a waiver, it must be employed on a program-wide basis by your agency and must be offered to all ESG applicants and participants that qualify.

The waivers are for the following ESG requirements:

- ✓ Re-evaluations for Homelessness Prevention Assistance
 - The requirement that re-evaluations for homelessness prevention assistance is completed at 3 months is waived for up to 2 years from April 1, 2020. If your agency chooses this waiver, re-evaluations must occur not less than every 6 months.
- ✓ Housing Stability Case Management
 - CAAs and service providers may limit case manager/client meetings to an as-needed basis, which may be less frequent than once monthly. This waiver is in effect until May 31, 2020.
- ✓ Restriction of Rental Assistance to Units with Rent at or Below FMR
 - The FMR restriction is waived for any household receiving ESG Rapid Re-Housing or Homelessness Prevention assistance who executes a lease for a unit during the 6 month period ending on September 30, 2020. The ESG subgrantee or subrecipient must still ensure that the units in which ESG assistance is provided meet the rent reasonableness standard.

These waivers are effective Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

Please contact Vicki at Vicki.r.massey@oregon.gov or Roserria at Roserria.Roberts@oregon.gov if you have any questions or concerns about ESG waivers or the ESG program.



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