

Emergency Solutions Grants Program-CARES Act Funding



June 2020

DCA Staff

Emergency Solutions Grant Program

- ❑ Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is a HUD formula grant program that provides funding for persons identified as homeless or “at risk of homelessness”
- ❑ The ESG program provides funding to: (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street; (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents, (5) rapidly rehouse homeless individuals and families, and (6) prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless.

Emergency Solutions Grant Program

- Today's Proposal will cover the following ESG project types:
 - ❖ Emergency Shelter
 - ❖ Homeless Prevention
 - ❖ Rapid Rehousing

Emergency Shelter

Emergency Shelter Overview

- **Emergency shelter** - facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.

Hotel-Motel Vouchers Overview

- Eligible ESG cost under the Emergency Shelter component
- Hotel or motel voucher may be provided where no appropriate emergency shelter is available
- Must have a direct connection to a program providing permanent housing placement
- Generally limited to 30 days

Eligibility for Services

- Individuals and families defined as Homeless under the following categories are eligible:
 - Category 1 – Literally Homeless
 - Category 4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV

Homeless Verification

CATEGORY 1

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

- ❑ **Third party written:** A written referral or official communication from another housing or service provider. Third party written documentation must be on official agency stationery and must be signed and dated by an appropriate agency representative.
 - ❑ **Alternate requirement:** Third party verification may be documented on DCA Third Party Verification form if not otherwise available.
- ❑ Completed DCA Staff Certification of Homelessness form documenting oral third-party statement or staff observations
- ❑ Completed DCA Self Certification of Homelessness form

Homeless Verification

CATEGORY 1

Exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and fit the above criteria immediately prior to entering:

- One of the forms of evidence on the previous slide, **and** ONE of the following:

- Discharge paperwork or a written or oral referral from a social worker, case manager, or other appropriate official of the institution, stating the beginning and end dates of the time residing in the institution. All oral statements must be recorded by the intake worker on the DCA Staff Certification of Homelessness form; **or**

- (B) Where the evidence listed above in (A) is not obtainable, a written record of the intake worker's due diligence in attempting to obtain the evidence described in (A) and a certification by the individual seeking assistance that states he/she is exiting or just exited an institution where he/she resided for 90 days or less. This is documented on the DCA Self Certification of Homelessness form.

Homeless Verification

CATEGORY 4

Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee some form of family violence, has no other residence; and Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing:

- If services are provided by a victim services provider:
 - DCA Staff Certification of Homelessness or
 - DCA Self Certification of Homelessness
 - Third party documentation (law enforcement, referrals, etc.) should be obtained whenever possible

Homeless Verification

CATEGORY 4

- If services are not provided by a victim services provider:
 - DCA Staff Certification of Homelessness or
 - DCA Self Certification of Homelessness
 - Where the safety of the individual/family is not jeopardized, the client's statement must be verified by the intake worker or a written referral.

ES Eligible Activities

CASE MANAGEMENT

- ❑ Using the centralized/coordinated assessment system
- ❑ Conducting the initial evaluation required under including verifying and documenting eligibility
- ❑ Counseling
- ❑ Developing, securing, and coordinating services and obtaining Federal, State, and local benefits
- ❑ Monitoring and evaluating project participant progress
- ❑ Providing information and referrals to other providers
- ❑ Providing ongoing risk assessment and safety planning with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, developing an individualized housing and service plan, including planning a path to permanent housing stability.

ES Eligible Activities



Child care

Education services

Employment assistance and job training

Legal services

Mental health services

Life skills training

Outpatient health services

Substance abuse treatment services

Transportation

Operations

Homeless Prevention

Prevention

- **Prevention** is most efficiently implemented when targeted to those at greatest risk of losing housing. Households receiving this funding must have an income level below 50% AMI and must demonstrate that they do not have sufficient resources or support networks to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or other place defined under Category 1 of the homeless definition.

Eligibility Criteria-Housing Status

□ Prevention

- “At-risk” definition (21 days)
- CATEGORY 2 – Imminent Risk (14 days) including hotel stays with own money
- CATEGORY 4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV

Eligibility Criteria

- Below 50% AMI
- Meets requirements for At Risk of Homelessness; or Category 2 or 4 of Homeless definition
- CATEGORY 2 hotel stays (evidence they can't stay 14 days from application date)
- Eligibility must be re-assessed every 6 months

At-Risk of Homelessness

- ❑ The household has income below 50 percent of median income for the geographic area;

AND

- ❑ the individual or family has insufficient resources immediately available to attain housing stability.

- ❑ Sufficient resources or support networks are family, friends, or faith-based or other social networks immediately available to prevent them from moving to a shelter or living outside

AND

At-Risk of Homelessness

...AND

□ Meets one or more of following:

1. Moved 2 or more times in previous 60 days for economic reasons
2. Living with others due to economic hardship
3. Notice of eviction (within 21 days)
4. Living in hotel/motel (at own cost)
5. Living in overcrowded housing (more than 2 persons for SRO/efficiency, more than 1.5 persons per room for larger housing)
6. Exiting an institution
7. Otherwise lives in housing that is unstable (see ESG Guidebook for more info)

At Risk of Homelessness Verification

- ❑ Documentation of income calculation in accordance with 24 CFR 5.609
 - ❑ DCA Income Verification forms
- ❑ Documentation showing lack of sufficient resources and risk factors
 - ❑ DCA At-Risk of Homelessness Certification
 - ❑ Termination letter, bank statement, bills showing arrears, etc.
 - ❑ Written statement by relevant third party
 - ❑ Written statement by intake staff

Financial Services

- Moving costs*
- Rent application fees*
- Security deposit*
- Last month's rent
- Utility deposit*
- Utility payments

*ONLY IF THE CLIENT IS UNABLE TO REMAIN IN THE CURRENT UNIT (Must be well documented)

Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services

- Housing Search & Placement*
- Housing Stability Case Management
- Mediation
- Legal Services
- Credit repair

Rental Assistance

- Short-term – Up to 3 months
- Medium-term – More than 3 months, up to 24 months (DCA Written Standards generally limits to 12 months)
- Rental arrears – One-time payment for up to 6 months of arrears
- Typically tenant-based for Prevention
- Total monthly rent must not exceed FMR

Case Management Requirements

- At least 1 X per month
- Changes in income/household composition
- Re-certification every 6 months
- Housing stability plan at discharge
- Increase incomes and acquisition of mainstream benefits (Georgia Gateway)
<https://gateway.ga.gov/access/>

Property Related Items

1. Lease (in client name) uploaded to ClientTrack
2. Rent reasonableness
3. Fair Market Rent (FMR) assessment
 - ❑ Waived for 6 months
4. Habitability inspection
5. Lead based paint if: financial assistance and
 - ❑ Built before 1978
 - ❑ Child under 6 or pregnant woman
6. Rental assistance agreement

Homeless Prevention Resources

- HUD-Homeless Prevention in the Midst of COVID-19
 - <https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/targeting-homeless-prevention-in-the-midst-of-covid-19/>
 - https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-System-Planning-A-Framework-for-Homelessness-Prevention.pdf?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=b7340e1eed-SNAPS-COVID-19-Digest-06-08-2020_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-b7340e1eed-19455581
 - <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Homelessness-Prevention-Effective-and-Efficient-Prevention-Programs.pdf>

Rapid Rehousing

Rapid Re-Housing

- **Rapid Re-Housing** projects are designed to help those who are homeless transition into permanent housing. The primary goal is to stabilize a project participant in permanent housing as quickly as possible and to provide wrap-around services after the family or individual obtains housing. Households receiving this funding must have an income level at or below 50% AMI.

Eligibility Criteria-Housing Status

- Individuals and families defined as Homeless under the following categories are eligible:
 - CATEGORY 1 – Literally Homeless
 - Includes individuals exiting institutions if stay was less than 90 days and he/she was literally homeless before entering
 - CATEGORY 4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV
 - *if CATEGORY 1 already met

Eligibility Criteria

- At or below 50% AMI and literally homeless
- Income Eligibility spreadsheet on ESG page of DCA website
- CPD Income Eligibility Calculator on HUD Exchange
<https://www.hudexchange.info/incomecalculator/>

Financial Services

- Moving costs
- Rent application fees
- Security deposit
- Last month's rent
- Utility deposit
- Utility payments

Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services

- Housing Search & Placement
- Housing Stability Case Management
- Mediation
- Legal Services
- Credit repair

Rental Assistance

- Short-term – Up to 3 months
- Medium-term – More than 3 months, up to 12 months
- Rental arrears – One-time payment for up to 6 months of arrears
- Total monthly rent must not exceed FMR

Case Management Requirements

- At least 1 X per month
- Changes in income/household composition
- Housing stability plan at discharge
- Increase incomes and acquisition of mainstream benefits (Georgia Gateway)
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Environmental Reviews

- All DCA ESG projects require an environmental review.
- Organizations may not commit or expend funds received through ESG until DCA approves an environmental review that meets the standards outlined in 24 CFR Part 58.
- DCA will complete the environmental reviews for all projects as part of the contracting process, **counties with Coastal Barrier Resource System areas must submit new Environmental Review Request for each new location.**

Use with Other Subsidies

- ❑ Collaborations with other programs are allowable if services are unduplicated (VASH, SSVF, etc.)
- ❑ Cannot receive same type of assistance from 2 public sources (federal, state, local, etc.)
- ❑ Rental assistance cannot be provided to a program participant who is receiving tenant-based rental assistance.
- ❑ Payment for client's part of rent arrears allowable (1 time)

MATCH



- NO MATCH is Required for the CARES ACT Funding
 - Agency must have 45 days of programmatic expenses available as demonstrated through financial statements

Application Overview

Application Review Panel

- Ben Moser- President/ CEO- United Way
- Chandra Wright- VP Philanthropy- United Way
- Ron King, PhD- Home for Good Executive Committee Member
- Rick McKnight- Home for Good Executive Committee Member
- Pat Frey- Home for Good – Executive Director

- Application Part 1: General Information about the Applicant (5 points)
- Application Part 2: Project Information (40 points)
- Application Part 3: Organizational Experience and Capacity (20 points)
- Application Part 4: Proposed Budget (20 points)
- Application Part 5: Organizational Financial Capacity (10 points)
- Application Part 6: HMIS Data Quality for completeness is \leq 5% (5 points)



Questions?

Thank You!



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