
EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS PROGRAM – CORONAVIRUS, ROUND 2 (ESG-CV 2)

COLLABORATION BETWEEN BUTTE COUNTYWIDE CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) &
LOCAL PARTNERS

FEBRUARY 22, 2021

INTRODUCTIONS

MEETING FACILITATORS:

Briana Harvey-Butterfield & Don Taylor

CHAT BOX & QUESTIONS:

Jay Coughlin

ATTENDANCE:

Please add your name and agency to the chat box.

MEETING CONDUCT RULES

- Participants are encouraged to turn on their video.
- Please mute your microphone when you're not speaking.
- All communication, verbal or in writing, must be polite and respectful of others. Be kind.
- Remember, as CoC Members, to structure conversations and considerations to meet the needs of persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness throughout the Continuum's service area.

AGENDA

1. Intent of ESG-CV 2
2. ESG-CV 2 Funding Plans
3. Application Process to Apply for Funding
4. Discussion

Resource Links:

<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/esg.shtml>

INTENT OF ESG-CV 2

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

- Under the Coronavirus Aids, Relief, and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Act enacted March 27th, 2020, the California Department of Housing and Community Development made available federal funds for the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program – Coronavirus (CV).
- ESG-CV Round 1: \$1 billion nationally, CA allocation \$43 million available, **Butte County \$921,500**. HCD issued Awards in September 2020, contract is now fully executed.
- ESG-CV Round 2: \$3 billion nationally, CA allocation \$253 million available, **Butte County \$5,776,946**. Application submitted, awaiting fully executed contract.

ESG-CV 2 OBJECTIVES

- Prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus among individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or receiving homeless assistance in a coordinated response that considers all available funding streams, housing resources, staffing resources and other community assets that can be marshalled.
- Prioritize the use of ESG-CV 2 funds for Rapid Re-housing to assist households experiencing literal homelessness move to the safest location possible – housing.
- Prioritize the use of ESG-CV 2 Rapid Re-housing funds to assist households staying in non-congregate shelter move to housing.
- Prioritize the use of ESG-CV 2 funds for Emergency Shelter, as needed, while providing pathways to housing from emergency shelter.

ESG-CV 2 OBJECTIVES CONTINUED

- Address racial disproportionality in homeless populations and achieve equitable provision of services for Black, Native and Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander and other people of color who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness and COVID-19.
- Provide housing and services that are low barrier, trauma informed, culturally responsive and housing first oriented. Per HUD guidance, individuals and families assisted with these ESG-CV 2 funds must not be required to receive treatment or perform any other prerequisite activities as a condition for receiving shelter, housing, or other services for which these funds are used.
- A coordinated response that considers all available funding streams & resources.

ESG-CV 2 HIGHLIGHTS

- No matching requirements
- No spending cap on Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach
- No minimum spending on Rapid Re-housing
- Income eligibility 50% of AMI for Homelessness Prevention
- No minimum period of use for Emergency Shelters

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

- Equitable and effective use of resources to re-house people, using equity-based decision-making and data driven policy setting.
- Follow CDC Recommendations:
 - Address public health risk by housing people in unsheltered locations and shelters with shared sleeping areas.
 - Ensure that people in non-congregate shelters do not return to unsheltered homelessness or shelters with shared sleeping areas.

QUESTIONS?

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT OF ESG-CV 2 RESOURCES

- COVID-19 Response & Re-Housing Strategy

Immediate Priorities:

- Non-Congregate Shelter (Project Roomkey or “Like” Program)
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Street Outreach
- HMIS
- Homelessness Prevention (only if all individuals are housed).

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT - CONTINUED

- The State strongly encourages grantees to use the bulk of their ESG-CV 2 funds for Rapid Re-housing so that households can move to housing and to use ESG-CV 2 for temporary shelter when necessary to address emergency health and safety needs in partnership with local public health.
- Use HMIS to maximize tracking and inform response and rehousing efforts.

NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER – PRIORITIES

- Emergency Shelter funds may be used only for the costs of providing emergency shelter during the period beginning on the date the grantee began preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus and ending on January 31st, 2022 per the HUD CPD Notice 20-08.
- Coordinate with CoC to ensure shelter management protocols are updated (social distancing, symptom screening, testing, hygiene/sanitation protocols).
- Coordinate with public health to establish non-congregate shelter options (hotel/motels; dorm rooms; converted spaces where people can isolate or quarantine in individual rooms).
- Increase staffing ratios and order supplies including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER – ELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS

- ESG-CV 2 funding amounts provided under the CARES ACT may be used to provide temporary emergency shelters (through leasing of existing property, temporary structures, or other means) to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus, and that such temporary emergency shelters shall not be subject to the minimum periods of use as required by section 416(c)(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Focus on investments that improve shelter quality, ability to prevent and mitigate the spread of infection, and increase the likelihood of positive exits with shortened stays such as:
 - Expansion of essential services funding for housing navigation to decrease length of stay in shelter.
 - Shelter conversion to expand access to non-congregate shelter.
 - Improved shelter quality and accessibility through renovations.

RAPID RE-HOUSING – PRIORITIES

- Rapid Re-housing (RRH) is the first priority investment as it has the greatest capacity of all ESG activities to end homelessness.
 - Strategically employ RRH in rehousing effort for those in overflow/congregate/non-congregate shelter and unsheltered.
 - Encourage sub-recipients to maintain a progressive engagement model.
 - Short-term diversion. 12 month maximum.
 - High-intensity service models for those who will need significant support to maintain housing.
 - Scale up staffing capacity.

RAPID RE-HOUSING – ELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS

Support efforts to:

- Scale landlord engagement activities.
- Engage/re-engage in coordinated entry.
- Monitor data.
- Ensure that exits to housing are equitable and that returns to homelessness are not racially disproportionate.
- Ensure people in housing are linked to appropriate services, including health care and employment services.
- Ensure people are provided with adequate assistance , based on individualized needs.
 - Completing needs assessments, updating case plans, and creating case plans are relevant and helpful to any client.

STREET OUTREACH – PRIORITIES

- Address urgent needs by providing PPE, toiletries and other supplies to those who are unsheltered.
- Engagement of unsheltered individuals to connect them to coordinated entry, non-congregate shelter and rapid re-housing.
- Linkage to health services.
- Ramp up street outreach efforts/presence, including increased staffing.

STREET OUTREACH – ELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS

- Focus on investments that improve housing-focused services, increase effectiveness of engagement, and improve the speed of exit from the homelessness system such as:
 - Mobile assessment.
 - Engagement and case management to support linkages to housing.
 - Transportation (Bus Tickets).
 - Identify new sub-recipients to improve outreach to traditionally underserved populations.

HMIS – PRIORITIES

- In partnership with sub-recipients and CoC, use HMIS for COVID-19 response.
- Establish close coordination with the HMIS lead agency that serves your county.
- Determine administrative, training and support needs related to expansion and training of new subs/providers (be mindful of need for new licenses and/or equipment to support participation).

HMIS – ELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS

- Support ongoing monitoring and assessment of HMIS participation and HMIS data quality.
- Monitor data to ensure indicators show equitable provision of housing and services, e.g., entries, exits, services provided, duration, etc.
- Establish protocols for frequent data assessment to ensure that they align with need projections and that strategies are as responsive as possible.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Homeless Prevention may be allowed **only** if the applicant can demonstrate that **all** homeless individuals (sheltered and unsheltered) within their CoC Service Area per the most recent point-in-time (PIT) counts are already housed or will be housed with current ESG or other sources of funding.

Eligible Investments:

- Use any investment in prevention resources as a way to improve linkage and coordination with the larger homeless response system.
 - Invest in Coordinated Entry system.
- Support at-risk diversion efforts.
- Build out a thoughtful data collection plan to improve prevention targeting and understand system disparities.



QUESTIONS?



ESG CV 2 FUNDING PLANS



ESG CV 2 ALLOCATIONS

Emergency Shelter	\$4,712,851
Rapid Re-Housing	\$300,000
Street Outreach	\$0
HMIS	\$577,695
Homelessness Prevention	\$0
Local Administration (~3.2%)	<u>\$186,400</u>
Total	\$5,776,946

Note:

Organizations will be reimbursed **AFTER** expending awarded funding.

Aggressive timeline.

DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS

- Responsibility to ensure that each ESG-CV 2 activity provides assistance only to the extent that the recipients funding needs have not been met by another source.
- Applicants are required to continue to report on duplication of benefits throughout the expenditure period for ESG-CV 2 funds.
- A duplication of benefits (DOB) occurs when:
 - Assistance from multiple sources and,
 - Total Assistance exceeds need for the type of assistance.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Per the CARES Act, contractors may request reimbursement for allowable costs incurred to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including costs incurred prior to award letter and prior to the date of the enactment of the CARES Act.
- Per HUD CPD Notice 20-08, costs incurred after January 21, 2020 – the date the first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported in the United States – will be eligible for reimbursement.
- Shifting costs between awards to overcome funding deficiencies is not allowed.

EXPENDITURE DEADLINES

- 20% of award expended by July 31, 2021
- 40% of award expended by September 30, 2021
- 60% of award expended by November 30, 2021
- 80% of award expended by January 31, 2022
- 100% of award expended by July 30, 2022



APPLICATION PROCESS TO APPLY FOR FUNDING



APPLICATIONS

- Applicant will submit/present an application to this planning group on March 1, 2021.
 - Example of Application.

- All applications will be reviewed and discussed. Recommendations will be made to the CoC Council during the March 15, 2021 CoC Meeting.

DISCUSSION

CONSIDERATIONS

- Aggressive timeline for spending funding.
 - 20% by July 30, 2021 is over one million dollars.
- Applicants will be REIMBURSED for expenditures, after spending money. Cash Flow is important to consider when applying for funding.
- Recommendation from the State to use funding for Non-Congregate Shelter options (i.e. Project Roomkey).
- County risks not being reimbursed for Project Roomkey if ESG-CV 2 funding goes unspent.
 - FEMA is the payer of last resort. Will only pay after all other funding sources have been exhausted.

NEXT DISCUSSION

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Monday, March 1, 2021	Zoom Invite	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm.

Questions/Comments: Email buttecoc@buttecounty.net