



DATE: February 12, 2021
TO: HSSN Strategic Planning and Discharge Workgroup (The CoC Board)
FROM: Staff, Office of Community Development
SUBJECT: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Consultation

Washington County Office of Community Development (OCD) is required to consult with members of the Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN), the Continuum of Care (CoC) body for the area, to discuss the activities to be funded under regulatory guidelines of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). Today's discussion will fulfill the requirement to consult with the CoC body on ESG program policies as well as determine the distribution of the estimated \$192,189 in Program Year (PY) 2021 ESG funding. Please note that this consultation applies to ESG funds administered through Washington County OCD, not ESG funds administered through the State of Oregon.

For the past three years, ESG funds administered through Washington County OCD have been used for rapid rehousing activities. In prior years, ESG funds were used for a combination of street outreach, emergency shelter operations, homeless prevention, and rapid rehousing administered through Community Action Organization (CAO). The shift in ESG priority in 2018 helped to reduce the administrative burden associated with these funds. In addition, CAO receives a variety of State funds to address homelessness, including Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA), State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP), Low Income Rental Housing Fund (LIRHF), and the Document Recording Fee (DRF) for veterans. The reduction in County ESG funds used for street outreach, emergency shelter operations, and homeless prevention is offset by a comparable increase in State funds administered through Community Action for these activities so that the total distribution of funds administered by Community Action relative to these different activities to address homelessness in the Washington County Continuum of Care network remains approximately the same. **As such, OCD proposes to maintain the allocation of ESG funds to support rapid rehousing activities in PY 2021.**

For the estimated \$192,189 in PY 2021 ESG funding, Washington County OCD proposes to allocate 7.5 percent, an estimated \$14,414, for administration and the remaining estimated total of \$177,775 to Community Action for Rapid Re-housing activities. Community Action will be responsible for providing proof of an equal amount of "match" funding for the program.

Additionally, staff is proposing minor updates to the ESG manual. Please refer to attachment C, "2021 ESG Program Manual", for the proposed changes. This meeting with the CoC Board will serve as an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes and/or offer additional changes to the ESG written policies and procedures.

Final consultation with the entire HSSN will occur on March 3, 2021 for approval and inclusion in the 2021 Action Plan, which is approved by the Policy Advisory Board (PAB). Please refer to Attachment A for a description of the proposed funding activities and levels of funding and Attachment B for the proposed performance standards.

ACTION REQUESTED: Your CoC Board recommend approval of the allocation amounts for the Emergency Solutions Grant activities as further described in Attachment A, “PY 2021 Funding Amounts for ESG Eligible Activities” and approve the proposed performance standards as described in Attachment B.

FY 2021
Funding Amounts for ESG Eligible Activities

| Eligible Activities | Street Outreach | Emergency Shelter | Homeless Prevention | Rapid Re-Housing | HMIS | Admin |
|---|--|--|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Regulatory Limits | Combined street outreach and emergency shelter expenditures cannot exceed the greater of 60% of the Recipient's fiscal year grant (\$99,608). | | n/a | n/a | n/a | 7.5% cap on amount available for Admin. |
| FY 2021 ESG: \$192,189 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$177,775 - This amount includes rent assistance and financial assistance for program participants. | \$0 | \$14,414 |
| Matching Funds (dollar for dollar match) Please cite all possible sources | Private donations Foundation support | Shelter Levy funding (local) Private donations Foundation support | State Funding: Emergency Housing Account Supportive Housing Assistance Program | State Funding: Emergency Housing Account Supportive Housing Assistance Program | Any combination of those listed. | Match for admin costs will need to be made up by eligible activities. |
| Performance Indicator (# and Types of People to be served) | Number: 0 Type: Individuals | Number: 0 Type: families, individuals and youth | Number: 0 Type: families and individuals | Number: Minimum of 60 individuals Type: families and individuals | n/a | n/a |
| Performance Objective (OCD uses HUD standards) | Objective: Suitable Living Environment Outcome: Avail/Access | Objective: Suitable Living Environment Outcome: Avail/Access | Objective: Decent Housing Outcome: Affordability | Objective: Decent Housing Outcome: Affordability | | |
| Performance Standards | Entry and exit measures Destination at exit: * Number of individuals who participate in Community Connect * Number of individuals entering emergency shelter, transitional housing or permanent housing | Reducing the time spent homeless: * Average shelter stay. Average shelter stay for individuals exiting to permanent housing. Length of time families spent on the shelter wait list last year | Reduce the time spent homeless: * Reduction in new incidences of homelessness and a reduced recidivism rate. The Community Connect assessment will gather information about whether the household has been homeless in the past. Track the rate of recidivism for past recipients of homeless prevention assistance. * Number of individuals exiting the program in permanent housing. | Reduce the time spent homeless: * Average number of days from intake to housing * Percentage of households exiting to permanent housing * Percentage of households retaining housing six months after exit | n/a | n/a |

ESG Performance Objectives and Standards by Activity

| Eligible Activities* | Street Outreach | Emergency Shelter | Homeless Prevention | Rapid Re-Housing |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Performance Objectives (HUD standards) | Objective: Suitable Living Environment Outcome: Availability/Accessibility | Objective: Suitable Living Environment Outcome: Availability/Accessibility | Objective: Decent Housing Outcome: Affordability | Objective: Decent Housing Outcome: Affordability |
| Performance Standards | Entry and exit measures Destination at exit Measurement: Number of individuals who participate in Community Connect, Washington County's Coordinated and Centralized Assessment System | Reducing the time spent homeless Measurement: Average shelter stay for families exiting to permanent housing Measurement: Length of time families spent on the shelter wait list last year. | Reduce the time spent homeless Measurement: Reduction in new incidences of homelessness and a reduced recidivism rate. | Reduce the time spent homeless Measurement: Average duration of episodes of homelessness, permanent housing retention. |
| Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness Objectives (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness) | Objective 10: Transform homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing. | While funding to support Emergency Shelter activities cannot be directly linked to a goal identified in the federal strategic plan, the need for shelters is still recognized as a crucial component of the County's homelessness crisis response system. | Objective 6: Improve access to mainstream programs and services to reduce people's financial vulnerability to homelessness. | Objective 3: Provide affordable housing to people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness Objective 4: Provide permanent supportive housing to prevent and end homelessness. |
| Washington County's A Road Home: Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness Goals | Goal 3: Link people to appropriate services and remove barriers. | Goal 1: Prevent people from becoming homeless. | Goal 1: Prevent people from becoming homeless. | Goal 2: Move people into housing. |
| Consolidated Plan Objective | C.7.s Provide outreach services to homeless persons and families. C.7.m Provide assessment and referral services through Washington County's Coordinated and Centralized Assessment System (CCAS) to provide a central point of referral for homeless and at-risk households to prevent and end episodes of homelessness. | C.7.b Provide supportive services and case management to vulnerable populations including homeless, mentally ill, persons with HIV/AIDS. | C.7.e Provide one-time or short-term rental support for low-income persons at risk of becoming homeless. C.7.t Provide housing navigation and case management services to homeless families or those at risk of becoming homeless including those fleeing from domestic violence. C.7.r Provide supportive services to homeless individuals and families (and those at risk of homelessness) that would include, but not be limited to, child care, housing education (e.g. Rent Well), mental health and addiction counseling, employment training, information and referral, parenting skills, accessing housing, and homeless prevention services. | |
| *Note: Objective and outcomes reporting is not applicable for Administration and HMIS activities. | | | | |