

# **Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program**

## **Program Description**

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is designed to identify sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons, as well as those at risk of homelessness, and provide the services necessary to help those persons quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.

The City of Fresno receives an annual allocation of ESG funding. All funded agencies are required to follow federal guidelines in the implementation of the ESG. The City of Fresno has written policies and procedures to facilitate the agencies in implementing the ESG guidelines as set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Subrecipient agencies will provide assistance related to housing of persons at risk of becoming homeless and housing persons that are currently homeless, as well as provide housing relocation and stabilization services.

## **Target Population**

The funds under this program are intended to target two populations of persons facing housing instability: 1) individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness (residing in emergency or transitional shelters or on the street) and need temporary assistance in order to obtain housing and retain it, and 2) individuals and families who are currently in housing but are at risk of becoming homeless and need temporary rent or utility assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless or assistance to move to another unit.

## **Eligible Activities**

Funding is available in certain eligible activities. Up to 2.5% of the requested amount for street outreach & emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, and rapid rehousing can be requested for administration of the grant. Any unallocated administration funds can be reallocated to homelessness prevention or rapid rehousing.

**Summary of ESG Eligible Project Components:**

Project Component	Main Eligible Activities
Emergency Shelter*	Renovation (Major Rehabilitation and Conversion), Essential Services, Shelter Operations, and Assistance required under URA. See <a href="#">24 CFR 576.102</a> .
Rapid Re-Housing Assistance	Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services Financial Assistance: Moving Costs, Rent Application Fees, Security Deposits, Last Month’s Rent, Utility Deposit and Utility Payment. Assistance may also include a one-time payment of rental arrears for up to 6 months. Services: Housing Search, Housing Placement, Housing Stability, Mediation, Legal Services, Credit Repair, Budgeting, Money Management. Rental Assistance: Short - Up to 3 months, Medium – 4-24 months. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance and Project-Based Rental Assistance. See <a href="#">24 CFR 576.103</a> , <a href="#">576.105</a> and <a href="#">576.106</a> .
Street Outreach*	Essential Services necessary to reach out to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, connect them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and provide them with urgent, non-facility-based care. Component services generally consist of engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services, and transportation. For specific requirements and eligible costs, see <a href="#">24 CFR 576.101</a> .
Homelessness Prevention	Same activities as Rapid Re-Housing
HMIS**	Grant funds may be used for certain Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and comparable database costs, as specified at <a href="#">24 CFR 576.107</a> .

\* ESG regulations limit street outreach and emergency shelter activities (combined) to no more than 60% of the fiscal year grant.

\*\* HMIS participation is required as a project component within all proposals, but may not be the sole project component.

See HUD’s [ESG Program Components Quick Reference](#) for more information.

### ***At Risk of Homeless Definitions***

At risk of homelessness means: (1) an individual or family who:

- ✓ Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD;
- ✓ Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the “homeless” definition in this section; and
- ✓ Meets one of the following conditions:
  - Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;
  - Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
  - Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;
  - Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;
  - Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 persons reside per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;
  - Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or
  - Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient’s approved consolidated plan;

## Conditions

The City of Fresno Housing and Community Development Division (HCDD) reserves the right to determine which funding source will be used to fund specific proposals, negotiate and award contracts to multiple applicants, and request additional information from applicants. By the act of submitting a proposal, applicants acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions of this NOFA and to the accuracy of the information they submit in response. HCDD reserves the right to reject any and all submittals, waive any irregularities in the submittal requirements. All submittal packages become the property of HCDD.

All requirements of the ESG Program apply under this NOFA. The HEARTH Act significantly revised the ESG Programs regulations at 24 CFR Part 576 and established new requirements for the ESG Program. HCD recommends that all organizations applying for funding review ESG Program eligibility criteria carefully.

## Selection Criteria

The selection will be based on the following:

- ✓ Thoroughness and clarity of the application;
- ✓ Ability and experience with the proposed project;
- ✓ Demonstrated ability to perform;
- ✓ History of successful completion of similar projects;
- ✓ Ability to meet projected deadlines within budget;
- ✓ Previous work performance;
- ✓ Key personnel working experience with the type

## Ineligible ESG Activities

- Assistance to organizations that require **religious instruction or counseling**, as part of the provision of homeless assistance. Renovation, of certain buildings, belonging to primarily religious organizations is defined by HUD as prohibited from receiving ESG funding.
- Assistance to organizations with facilities which do not have documentation that the units, to be occupied by children under the age of six, have not been abated for **lead-based paint**. If a shelter has units having one or more bedrooms, and a person receives assistance for more than 100 days, all child-occupied spaces must be lead safe. Organizations with units that are not exempt will be required to provide documentation that the units have met the requirements of the law.