

City of Canton
Community Development Department

Notice of Funding Availability



Guidelines
For
Emergency Solutions Grant Funds

2024

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I General Information

BACKGROUND

The [Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 \(HEARTH Act\)](#) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, revising the Emergency Shelter Grants Program in significant ways and renaming it the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. The ESG Interim Rule took effect on January 4, 2012. The change in the program's name, from Emergency Shelter Grants to Emergency Solutions Grants, reflects the change in the program's focus from addressing the needs of homeless people in emergency or transitional shelters to assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.

This law revised the Emergency Shelter Grants program and renamed the program the Emergency Solutions Grants program (ESG). ESG is designed to broaden existing emergency shelter and homelessness prevention activities and to add short and medium-term rental assistance and services to rapidly re-house homeless people. The ESG Program implements a variety of measures directed toward keeping individuals and families from losing their homes. The program is designed to improve administrative efficiency and enhance response coordination and effectiveness in addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness. It enhances the Continuum of Care planning process, the coordinated response for addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

HUD PRIORITIES OF THE ESG PROGRAM

In developing the Emergency Solutions Grant regulations, HUD determined its priorities to include:

- Broaden existing emergency shelter and homelessness prevention activities;
- Emphasize Rapid Re-Housing;
- Help people quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness;
- Enhance alignment of ESG regulations with other HUD programs – including CDBG, HOME, and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program;
- Support more coordinated and effective data collection, performance measurement, and program evaluation.

ELIGIBLE COMPONENTS AND POPULATIONS TO BE SERVED

The chart below indicates the eligible components of the ESG program and the populations that they may serve.

Component	Serving	
	Those who are literally Homeless	Those who are at risk of homelessness
Street Outreach	X	
Emergency Shelter	X	
Homelessness Prevention		X
Rapid Re-Housing	X	
HMIS	Collecting Data on X	Collecting Data on X

ESG AND THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

The ESG program is designed as the *first* step in a continuum of assistance to prevent homelessness and to enable the homeless population to move steadily toward independent living. The Continuum of Care model is based on the understanding that homelessness is not caused by simply a lack of shelter but involves a variety of underlying needs. HUD believes the best approach to alleviating homelessness is through a community-based process that provides a comprehensive response to diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness.

All ESG subrecipients must **actively participate** in the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) through participation in the full membership and preferably on one of the various committees of HCCSC. Failure to actively participate will result in suspension of funding and may result in recapture of ESG funds.

HMIS AND COORDINATED ENTRY

Applicants must participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) unless it is a domestic violence organization which must maintain a comparable HMIS system internally.

Applicants must participate in the HCCSC's Coordinated Entry System.

For renovation projects, the length of time that HMIS reporting is required will be dependent upon the affordability period of the project. All renovation affordability periods are currently 3 years.

FAMILIARIZATION WITH REGULATIONS

It is the responsibility of each applicant of ESG funding to become familiar with the [HUD ESG Code of Regulations](#). Additional information can be found on the HUD Exchange web site at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/esg/esg-law-regulations-and-notices/#laws>.

II Application Process

APPLICATION

The application must be completely filled out with all attachments completed and submitted by the due date. Applications submitted after the due date and time will be returned to the applicant. Applications must be completed on the application form. Only those attachments requested will be accepted; additional attachments will not be reviewed.

A separate application must be submitted for each project and type of activity for which funding is being requested. One set of attachments is required if the organization submits more than one application.

The application must include information and attachments as outlined in the **Application Checklist**. Only one copy of the financial audit needs to be included and must be attached to the original application.

APPLICATION DUE DATE

**Application Period Opens on November 1, 2023, at 12:00 AM and
Application Period Ends on November 30, 2023, at 11:59 PM.**

Applications can be sent to the email address below.

**Marcie Bragg at
mbragg@starkhousingnetwork.org**

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

APPLICATION REVIEW

All applications will be reviewed by the Stark Housing Network, Inc. for eligibility. Those projects determined to be ineligible for funding will be returned to the applicant with an explanation of the determination. All projects will be evaluated and scored by the HCCSC's Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee. In accordance with the Procedures for Inviting and Reviewing Applications for ESG funding (found on the HCCSC website under Policies & Procedures at starkcountyhomeless.org project applications will be scored and ranked and will be submitted to the City for its final approval.

All applications will be ranked by the Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee. The scoring and ranking of these projects will be recommended to the HCCSC Board of Directors for approval which will then be recommended to the City of Canton.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants must be incorporated non-profit organizations in the State of Ohio which provide programs for qualified homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness in the City of Canton.

III. Other Requirements

CONTRACT/GRANT AGREEMENT PROCESS

All applicants will be notified of funding decisions by mail and/or email. Award letters and funding agreements will be provided to subrecipients.

All 2024 grant awards must be expended in accordance with the signed contract agreement.

City of Canton Department of Community Development Staff may contact all applicants for verification or clarification of information or for additional information prior to a funding decision.

CONTRACT/SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENTS

The City of Canton Department of Community Development will enter into contracts or subrecipient agreements with all agencies that are awarded funds. Contracts and agreements will contain provisions for cancellation in cases where the subrecipient fails to adhere to the terms and conditions outlined in the contract or agreement or for other unacceptable performance. Contracts and agreements will:

- Stipulate the total amount of the award;
- Stipulate the program and component of the award;
- Stipulate a specified contract period;
- Indicate the method of funds disbursement; and
- Set forth performance requirements and production schedule.

Subrecipients who have not complied with the terms of previous agreements (e.g., failure to utilize funds within the time specified, failure to submit requested documents and/or information in the manner requested or in a timely manner) may be denied funding.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must be in good standing with the City of Canton for grants previously received. In addition, they must be in good standing with the City of Canton and Stark County in payment of city income tax, real estate taxes, personal property taxes, water and sewer charges or other city assessments for any properties owned within the City of Canton. Attachment III must be completed and submitted within the application to provide proof of this information.

Primarily religious organizations must agree to provide all activities under this program in a manner that is free from religious influences.

Applicants must agree to the HCCSC's System Performance Targets, as applicable by project type, as set by the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County. Outcomes will be monitored by the City of Canton and/or designee. The Stark Housing Network, Inc. is the current designee.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WITH THE APPLICATION:

- Organizational chart with all vacancies indicated
- Position descriptions for all affected staff positions
- Applicant's most recent audit report and most recent financial statement (must be dated in 2022 or after)
- Applicant's operating budget for the current year
- Internal Revenue Service 501 (c)3 designation
- Articles of Incorporation
- Agency by-laws
- Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State (current year)
- List of all current members of the organization's board of directors
- Last three months of board minutes, including attendance
- Copy of the organization's conflict of interest policy/ questionnaire

Approved projects also may be required to proof of the following:

- Property deeds
- Insurance
- Current Fire Inspection for each facility based on applicant's 2024 funding request.
- Certificate of occupancy for each facility based on applicant's 2024 funding request.
- Various other documents as required upon selection.

OTHER FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

Subrecipients must abide by the requirements detailed in the Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 and 576, Housing and Urban Development and Title 42, Public Health and Welfare, and OMB Circulars A122 and A133 or 2 CFR Part 200 as applicable; regulations related to Lead-Based Paint Hazards, and other applicable federal and state regulations. Additional requirements, including reporting requirements, may be communicated prior to executing a Grant Agreement.

The Code of Federal Regulations can be found at:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2018-title24-vol3/xml/CFR-2018-title24-vol3-part576.xml#seqnum576.1>

OMB Circulars can be found at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-for-agencies/circulars/>

LEAD-BASED PAINT REQUIREMENTS

All properties funded with Federal monies must comply with HUD Lead Safe Housing Rule, 24 CFR 35, subparts A, B, H, J, K, M and R. All emergency shelter and transitional housing facilities constructed prior to 1978 must be inspected to determine the possible presence of lead-based paint hazards. City of Canton staff will perform the initial inspections and recommend appropriate actions.

Copies of the applicable regulations are available for download at:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/healthy_homes/enforcement/lshr

FACILITY STANDARDS

Any emergency shelter that receives assistance for shelter operations must also meet the following minimum safety, sanitation, and privacy standards which can be found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3766/esg-minimum-habitability-standards-for-emergency-shelters-and-permanent-housing/>. The shelter building must be structurally sound to protect residents from the elements and not pose any threat to health and safety of the residents. Any renovation (including major rehabilitation and conversion) carried out with ESG assistance must use Energy Star and Water Sense products and appliances. The shelter must be accessible in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 8; the Fair Housing Act and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 100; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and 28 CFR Part 35; where applicable

ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

All properties funded with Federal monies must comply with Section 504 Standards. For more information about Section 504, visit:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/disabilities/sect504faq

All ESG applicants must submit Attachment I as a statement describing the accessibility of every facility to be assisted with ESG funds. If a facility is not accessible, the applicant must submit a detailed plan for sheltering a person with a disability.

FAIR HOUSING

All properties funded with Federal monies must comply with City of Canton Codified Ordinance 515 Fair Housing Code, which is available at:

https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/canton/latest/canton_oh/0-0-0-10506#JD_515

MATCH

All subrecipients of ESG funds are required to provide a **dollar-for-dollar match**. The match must be for the specific project for which ESG funding is requested and must be received and expended within the grant year.

Eligible sources of match are:

- Cash;
- The fair rental value of any donated materials or buildings;
- The value of the time and services contributed by volunteers to carry out the program of the subrecipient at a current rate of \$10.00 per hour. [Note: Volunteers providing professional services such as medical or legal services are valued at the reasonable and customary rate in the community.]

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No person who exercises or has exercised any functions or responsibilities with respect to activities assisted under the ESG program, or who is in a position to participate in a decision-making process or gain inside information with regard to activities assisted under the program, may obtain a financial interest or benefit from an assisted activity; have a financial interest in any contract, subcontract, or agreement with respect to an assisted activity; or have a financial interest in the proceeds derived from an assisted activity, either for him or herself or for those with whom he or she has family or business ties, during his or her tenure or during the one-year period following his or her tenure. The conflict-of-interest provisions apply to any person who is an employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected or appointed official of the recipient or its subrecipients.

INVOLVEMENT OF PERSONS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

All ESG subrecipients must involve individuals and families with lived experience of homelessness in the maintenance and operation of facilities, and in the provision of services to residents of these facilities to the maximum extent possible. Methods of achieving client involvement may include having a suggestion box; using chore lists and exit interviews; conducting regularly scheduled house meetings; encouraging clients to assist with children's programs, parenting classes or vocational training; or service as members of the Board.

The involvement of persons with lived experience of homelessness is required through 24 CFR 576.

PROCESS OF TERMINATING ASSISTANCE

The recipient or subrecipient must exercise judgment and examine all extenuating circumstances in determining when violations warrant termination so that a program participant's assistance is terminated only in the most severe cases. To terminate rental assistance or housing relocation and stabilization services to a program participant, the required formal process, at a minimum, must consist of: (1) Written notice to the program participant containing a clear statement of the reasons for termination; (2) A review of the decision, in which the program participant is given the opportunity to present written or oral objections before a person other than the person (or a subordinate of that person) who made or approved the termination decision; and (3) Prompt written notice of the final decision to the program participant. Termination under this section does not bar the recipient or subrecipient from providing further assistance at a later date to the same family or individual.

24 CFR 576.402 allows for termination of assistance to an individual or family who violates program requirements. Termination must be in accordance with a formal process established by the organization that recognizes the rights of individuals affected. The policy must meet Uniform Relocation Assistance (URA) requirements, which is available on the City's website.

There must be an appeals procedure for clients who are evicted or refused service from the facility for any reason. At a minimum, someone other than the person who made the initial termination of services must hear any appeals. Clients must be informed of the appeals procedure at intake.

A copy of your termination policy must be submitted as Attachment III.

RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All ESG subrecipients must have policies and procedures established in writing to ensure that the requirements of 24 CFR 576.500 record keeping and reporting requirements are met which are available at:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2018-title24-vol3/xml/CFR-2018-title24-vol3-part576.xml#seqnum576.500>

FAITH-BASED ACTIVITIES

Organizations that are religious or faith-based are eligible, on the same basis as any other organization, to receive ESG funds. Organizations that are directly funded under the ESG program may not engage in inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization as part of the programs or services funded under ESG. If an organization conducts these activities, the activities must be offered separately, in time or location, from the programs or services funded under ESG, and participation must be voluntary for program participants.

BIDDER AND CONTRACTOR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES REPORT

For any awards of more than \$25,000, completion of the Bidder and Contractor Employment Practices Report (Attachment VI) is one of the steps which demonstrate compliance with the City of Canton's Equal Employment Opportunity Program. The form is designed to provide an evaluation of your agency's policies and practices relating to the extension of equal employment opportunity to all persons regardless to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or sexual identity.

IV Financial Information

FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

ESG subrecipients will request their grant award reimbursement by submitting the Monthly Request for Disbursement Form with a budget which details itemized ESG and match expenditures and names the match source for operations, administration (excluding staff costs), staff costs, equipment, and/or furnishings. All ESG funds must be requested on the ESG Request for Disbursement Form. All original disbursement forms, with required backup documentation such as general ledgers, client expense reports, quotes, and receipts, must be submitted via mail and/or email to: **The City of Canton, Department of Community Development, Attn: Tammy Hajdu, 218 Cleveland Avenue SW, PO Box 24218, Canton, OH 44702, cdinvoices@cantonohio.gov** who will process requests for payment. Funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis only and require monthly status reports at the time of submission.

REPORTING AND MONITORING

All ESG subrecipients are required to submit **Monthly Status Reports** (reports will be due on the 15th of every month one month after receipt of funding and will continue to be due on the 15th of every month until the month following the exhaustion of funds) **and a Final Status Report** (final report will be due within 60 days of the end of the term of the grant agreement) to the City of Canton and/or designee. Reports shall include, but are not limited to, the following information:

- Reporting budget expended to date
- Reporting on performance outcomes that are applicable to the funded project type
- Reporting on any training issues or technical assistance needs

A **Grant Closeout Report** is required when the final reimbursement is requested.

City of Canton staff and/or designee will monitor the use of grant funds through a combination of review of monthly status reports, quarterly review of HMIS/DV-comparable data outcomes, annual audit review and site visits.

AUDITS/CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number (CFDA) for ESG is 14.231. This number must be made available to the accountants who perform your organization's audit or audited financial statements.