

# Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program

CFDA: 14.231

**Administering Federal Agency:** Office of Community Planning and Development, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs

**Description:** 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.

ESG is a formula grant program and eligible recipients generally consist of metropolitan cities, urban counties, territories, and states, as defined in [24 CFR 576.2](#). The ESG funding formula is [based on](#) geographic size, population, and poverty rates. All recipients must consult with the [Continuum\(s\) of Care](#) operating in the jurisdiction to determine how to subgrant ESG funds.

**Matching Requirements:** Metropolitan cities and urban county recipients must match grant funds with an equal amount of contributions, which may include cash, donated buildings or materials, and volunteer services. States must match all but \$100,000 of their awards, but must pass on the benefits of that \$100,000 exemption to their subrecipients that are at least capable of providing match amounts. Territories are exempt from the match requirement. [See 24 CFR 576.201](#).

**Information about Rental Assistance:** To find information about rental assistance programs in your area, go [here](#).

**Amount of available funding:** To find contact information, report, awards, jurisdiction, and other

data for organizations that receive HUD funding, including ESG, go [here](#).

**Potential uses:** ESG funds may be used for [five program components](#) (emphasis added):

1. Street outreach, including engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services, transportation, and services for special populations
2. Emergency shelter, including case management, childcare, education services, employment assistance and job training, outpatient health services, legal services, and others
3. Homelessness prevention, including rental assistance, financial assistance, and services such as landlord-tenant mediation and tenant legal services
4. Rapid re-housing assistance, including rental assistance, financial assistance, and services including tenant legal services and credit repair, and
5. Data collection through the Homeless Management Information System

Allowable legal services are defined in 24 CFR 576.102(a)(1)(vi) as “those services necessary to help program participants obtain housing or keep a program participant from losing housing where they currently reside.” See pg. 16 of [HUD’s Notice CPD-20-08](#).

#### Other Helpful Information:

- The CARES Act appropriated an additional [\\$1 billion](#) to the ESG program to build and operate additional emergency shelters, provide motel/hotel vouchers for homeless individuals and families, prevent individuals from becoming homeless, and provide services to people experiencing homelessness, including legal

services. State and grantee allocations can be found [here](#). ESG received an additional allocation of \$2.96 billion from HUD [in June 2020](#).

- All HUD guidance including funding and award information, program notices and waivers, FAQs, and webinars related to ESG and COVID-19 can be found [here](#).
- HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs invites homeless assistance providers and their partners to participate in weekly Office Hours to discuss COVID-19 planning and response on Fridays from 2:30-4:00 PM EDT. Information is [here](#).
- To find previous ESG awards, go [here](#).
- HUD has compiled ESG FAQs [here](#).