

May 2012 Emergency Solutions Grant NOFA Workshop Questions and Answers

Overlap of Funding Rounds

Q. Can 2011-12 Round I & II Awardees apply for 2012-13 funding?

A: Yes.

New Programs

Q. If an application is applying as a new program, how will it be rated and ranked?

A: To be considered a New Program, an application will be comprised of one or more **new** components. Each component will be rated against like components as is the case with all applications. An application may apply for more than the \$54,549, which is being made available under the New Program Allocation. Once the final application score is determined, it will be placed into the New Allocation region. Once those funds are exhausted the application will drop to the General Allocation to obtain the rest of the funding (if needed). If the score is still competitive it will obtain the remainder of the applicant's requested funding. Please note, if the application has only one new component along with existing components, the applicant should be applying in the Rural, Northern, or Southern Region (See page 11 of the application).

MOU vs. Service Provider Agreement

Q. What is the difference between the two?

A: An MOU is a written agreement between the Eligible Applicant and the Partner Agencies agreeing to assist in the delivery of ESG services. Partner Agencies are also included in the Project Budget *whereas* the Service Provider Agreement is a contract or agreement between a Unit of General Purpose Local Government and or a Non-Profit Organization to carry out ESG activities under the terms of the Standard Agreement with HCD.

For example: For a 1) MOU relationship, both the lead and the partner agency share the responsibility for providing the activity; 2) under a service agreement, the applying agency takes full responsibility for delivering the activity.

Project vs. Component

Q. What is the difference between the two?

A: A project is composed of one or more sites (physical locations) where components and their respective activities are performed. A component is defined as one of the following; Emergency Shelters, Street Outreach, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Prevention, HMIS, and Administration.

Formatting

Q. Will the application formatting be fixed?

A: Yes, the application was unlocked and reposted to the website on May 16, 2012. This should correct the formatting issues identified.

CAGE code vs. CCR #

Q. What is the difference and what do we need to provide?

A: The CAGE code number is your Central Contractor Registration (CCR) number. It's referred to as "CAGE" because the previous designation was called Commercial and Government Entity. Everyone who conducts business with the federal government must be registered with CCR. Registration for your CCR number is completed online.

Written Standards

Q. What should be submitted as Written Standards?

A: The CoC and the applicant should be communicating with regards to the direction of the CoC. Every organization should have these in place at the time the application is due. Please refer to the Federal Regulation section 576.400.

Rating Components

Q. Hope Agency wants to offer both homelessness prevention (HP) and rapid re-housing (RR) program components in their county. Should the agency submit one proposal with both program components or two proposals for each funding component?

A: For all applications, each component will be rated against like components (HP vs. HP, RR vs. RR etc.). Once the final application score is determined, the application will be placed into its respective regional allocation. Once all the regional funds are exhausted and if your agency's application has not received any funding, then the application will drop to the General Allocation to compete for the available funding.

If your agency submits a separate application for each program component, then your applications will be competing against one another in your regional allocation or the general allocation. Keep in mind that one, both, or neither application can be funded.

If your agency submits a single application for both program components, each program component will be evaluated and rated as separate proposals. Scores will be averaged to result in total scoring as one Application.

State Objectives Target Groups

Q. If our Project does not target Homeless Veterans, can we still respond and receive points for this question in the ESG Application? Our agency targets the Chronically Homeless; however, Homeless Veterans occasionally make up this group.

A: No. You must have identified your 'Target Group' on page 11 of the ESG Application in order to respond and receive points for questions in the State Objectives.

Attachment C – Certification of Local Approval

Q. What Cities/Counties need to sign Attachment C?

A: Each eligible City(s)/County(s) where your Project/Facility is located and carrying out ESG Activities must sign the Certification of Local Approval. In addition, all Cities you identify as your Target Service Area(s) must also sign a Certification of Local Approval.

Assisting ESG Participants outside of my target Service Area?

Q. Can I assist ESG Program Participants outside of my Target Service Area and/or who live in an 'ineligible' city?

A: Yes, your Project/Facility where you are carrying out ESG Activities must be located in an Eligible City/County, not the Program Participants served.

All Facility/Projects must be located in an Eligible City/County

Q. Our Project headquarters/facility is located in an ineligible city and is operating a Homelessness Prevention Program. However, the other two facilities that are part of our Project are also assisting Program Participants with Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing and are located in eligible cities. Do we qualify as an eligible Applicant since two of the three facilities are in eligible cities?

A: No. All Projects/Facilities that are carrying out ESG Activities must be located in Eligible Cities/Counties.

AMI - Income Requirement

Q. For ESG, does the 30 percent income requirement also apply to participants who are 1) verified to be homeless, AND 2) NOT receiving homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing services? The Emergency Solutions Grant Program Interim Regulations seem to indicate it is only required for "at-risk" clients and those receiving homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing services.

A: No, an income assessment is not required for individuals and families who qualify as "homeless" under paragraph (1) of the homeless definition under § 576.2 (category 1 homeless) and are being served using Emergency Shelter or Street Outreach funds.

To be eligible for Homelessness Prevention assistance in the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program, a household must have an income BELOW 30% of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD, at initial evaluation (§576.103). However, at re-evaluation - which must take place not less than once every three months for homelessness prevention - the participant must have an annual income THAT DOES NOT EXCEED 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD (§576.401(b)).

For the Rapid Re-Housing component, an income assessment is not required at initial evaluation. However, at re-evaluation, which must take place not less than once annually for Rapid Re-Housing, income must be assessed. At that point, the participant can remain eligible only if the household's income is LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 30% of AMI (24 CFR 576.401(b)(i)). Also note that there is a second requirement to consider at re-evaluation: whether the participant lacks sufficient resources and support networks to retain housing without ESG assistance (24 CFR 576.401(b)(ii)).