

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

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July 28, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Potential Applicants

FROM: Sasha Hauswald, Deputy Director
Division of Federal Financial Assistance

**SUBJECT: 2023 Emergency Solutions Grants Program
Balance of State Allocation
Notice of Funding Availability**

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD/Department) is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$5 million in new federal funds for the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. Funding for this NOFA is made available pursuant to Subtitle B of Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

HCD will be accepting 2023 ESG applications through the **eCivis Grants Management System** portal beginning **August 15, 2023**. Applications and all required documentation must **be received by HCD no later than Monday, October 16, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)**. Any application received after **Monday, October 16, 2023, 3:00 p.m. PDT** will not be accepted.

The application must include a completed authorizing resolution (AR) approved by the Applicant's governing board and on the required HCD template. The AR designates a person (or persons) responsible for, and authorized to execute, all documents related to the application for ESG funds and submittal of funds requests.

Please see the instructions for completing the AR template on the ESG website. Failure to use the AR form provided by HCD will result in automatic disqualification. If a governing body must prepare a separate resolution concurrently that conforms to its local standard, it may do so, so long as the AR form provided by HCD is completed in full. ***"In the event the applicant's AR is not submitted by the application due date, then the entire application will be deemed untimely and thus automatically rejected in its entirety."***

Applicants are encouraged to set-up their profiles in the eCivis portal located at [eCivis Grants Management System Portal](https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/esg.shtml) as early as possible. Information about setting up a profile, submitting an application, and managing awards through the eCivis portal is available on HCD's ESG website at "<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/esg.shtml>"

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Applicants are encouraged to begin the application process early to ensure successful submission before the application deadline. If you have any trouble logging into the portal, or have questions on how to complete the online application, please contact the ESG Staff at: ESGNOFA@hcd.ca.gov.

To receive ESG NOFA FAQs, other program information, and updates, please subscribe to the Federal Programs listserv at <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/contact-us/email-signup>.

For questions, or assistance, please email ESGNOFA@hcd.ca.gov.

Attachment

**Emergency Solutions Grants Program
Balance of State Allocation
2023 Notice of Funding Availability**



**Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California**

**Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, Secretary
Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency**

**Gustavo Velasquez, Director
California Department of Housing and Community Development**

Division of Federal Financial Assistance, Community Development Branch
Emergency Solutions Grants Program
2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95833
ESG Program Email: ESGNOFA@hcd.ca.gov

July 28, 2023

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I. Overview

A. Notice of Funding Availability

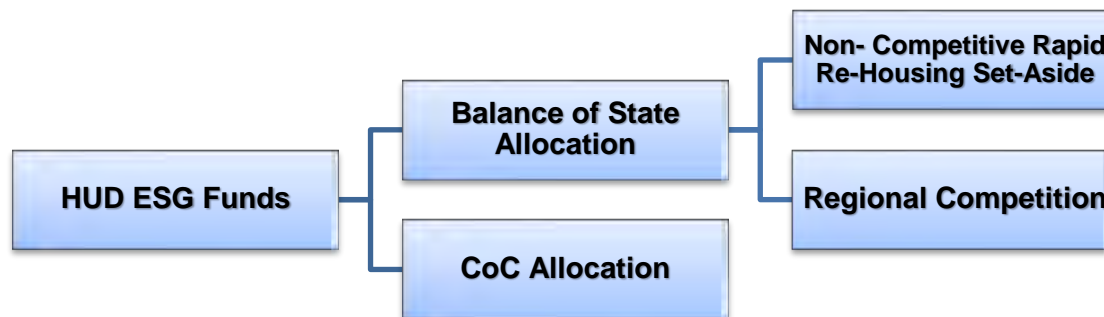
The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) receives funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. Approximately \$5 million in new federal funds, as well as additional disencumbered funds that may become available later this year, will be allocated to the eligible Continuum of Care (CoC) Service Areas listed in [Appendix A](#).

The ESG program provides funding for the following objectives:

- Engaging individuals and families experiencing homelessness;
- Improving the quality of Emergency Shelters (ES) for individuals and families experiencing homelessness by helping to operate these shelters, and by providing essential services to shelter residents;
- Rapidly re-housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and
- Preventing families/individuals from becoming homeless.

The funds are distributed in two separate funding pools: the CoC allocation and the Balance of State (BoS) allocation. Funding in the BoS allocation is made available based on recommendations from a CoC in two ways:

1. Through [regional competitions](#) within three geographic regions (Northern Region, Bay Area Region, Central and Imperial Valley Region) pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 25 CCR § 8404 (a) (3); and
2. Through a [non-competitive process](#) for Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) activities.



This NOFA outlines application requirements and timelines for CoCs and their recommended applicants (Applicant) for the BoS allocation. Please see the Authorizing Legislation Section for citations to the applicable program regulations. CoCs are responsible for recommending Applicants to HCD for funds available under this NOFA. CoC recommended Applicants can apply for both the non-competitive RRH funds and the regional competition funds.

All references to the “state” are references to the State of California. All references to ESG funding reference federal ESG funds administered by HCD unless otherwise noted.

B. Tentative program timeline

ESG NOFA and applications for the BoS allocation released:	August 15, 2023
Application deadline:	October 16, 2023
HCD announces BoS awards:	January 2024

C. New Requirements & Additions in the 2023 NOFA

1. Environmental Review

a. Units of general-purpose local government

According to the requirements in the HUD Grant Agreement, Applicants for assistance that are units of general local government must agree to assume responsibility for environmental review, decision-making, and action under 24 CFR Part 58, “Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming HUD Environmental Responsibilities” and shall comply with the environmental requirements of 24 CFR Part 58 including §58.4 “Assumption Authority.” If awarded funding, the obligation of funds and incurring of costs will be conditioned upon Applicants compliance with 24 CFR Part 58, and completion by HCD of all applicable review and approval requirements as specified in 24 CFR Part 58.18.

The Applicant, its Service Providers (Service Providers), and any Subcontractors (Subcontractors) of the Applicant or its Service Provider (Service Provider) may not acquire, rehabilitate, convert, lease, repair, dispose of, demolish, or construct property for a project, or commit or expend ESG or local funds for eligible activities under this part, until the Applicant has performed an environmental review under 24 CFR Part 58 and the Applicant has received HCD approval if required by the level of environmental review.

In accordance with 24 CFR §58.22, “Limitations on activities pending clearance” neither an Applicant nor any Service Provider in the development process, including public or private nonprofit or for-profit entities, or any of their contractors (Contractors), may commit HUD assistance under a program listed in 24 CFR §58.1(b) on an activity or project until the environmental review process is complete and, if required, HCD has approved the Applicant’s HUD Form 7015.5 “Request for Release of Funds and Certification” (RROF) and issued HUD Form 7015.16, “Authority to Use Grant Funds”.

Neither the Applicant nor any Service Provider in the development process may commit non-HUD funds or undertake an activity or project that would have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. Upon completion of environmental review, HCD shall notify Applicant. HUD funds shall not be utilized before this requirement is

satisfied. Violation of 24 CFR Part 58 may result in disapproval, modification, or cancellation of the ESG Grant.

If awarded funding and if a project or activity is exempt under 24 CFR §58.34, “Exempt activities” or is categorically excluded (except in extraordinary circumstances) under 24 CFR Part 58.35(b) “Categorical exclusions not subject to §58.5”, no RROF is required, and the Applicant may undertake the activity immediately after they have provided documentation to HCD of its determination that each activity or project is exempt or categorically excluded. The Applicant remains responsible for carrying out any applicable requirements under §58.6, “Other Requirements” and must provide documentation to HCD at the time of grant monitoring of its compliance with this section of 24 CFR Part 58.

If awarded funds, the Applicant is also subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Standard Agreement will require that the Contractor assumes responsibility to fully comply with CEQA’s requirements.

b. Non-profits

The Applicant shall comply with the environmental requirements of 24 CFR Part 58. The obligation of funds and incurring of costs is hereby conditioned upon compliance with 24 CFR Part 58 and completion by HCD and HUD of all applicable review and approval requirements.

The Applicant shall supply all available, relevant information for its activities as well as the activities of all Service Providers, Subrecipients (Subrecipient) and/or Subcontractors, necessary for the Department to perform the appropriate level of environmental review as required under 24 CFR Part 58. The Applicant shall also carry out any required environmental mitigation measures which result from the environmental review and provide documentation to HCD to demonstrate that the mitigation measures have been fully implemented. HUD may eliminate from consideration any application that would require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Applicant, its Service Providers, or any Subcontractor of the Applicant or its Service Provider, may not acquire, rehabilitate, convert, lease, repair, dispose of, demolish, or construct property for a project, or commit or expend ESG or local funds for eligible activities under this part, until HCD has completed, and HUD has approved, if required by the level of review, the environmental review under 24 CFR Part 58 and until HUD has issued HUD Form 7015.16 “Authority to Use Grant Funds” based on HCD’s submission of HUD Form 7015.15, “Request for Release of Funds”.

In accordance with 24 CFR §58.22, neither an Applicant nor any Service Provider in the development process, including public or private nonprofit or for-profit entities, or any of their Contractors, may commit HUD assistance under a program listed in 24 CFR §58.1(b) on an activity or project until completion of the environmental review.

Neither an Applicant nor any Service Provider in the development process may commit non-HUD funds or undertake an activity or project that would have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. Upon completion of environmental review or receipt of environmental clearance, the Department shall notify Applicant. HUD

funds shall not be utilized before this requirement is satisfied. Violation of the provisions of 24 CFR Part 58 may result in disapproval, modification, or cancellation of the ESG Grant.

If awarded funding and if a project or activity is exempt under 24 CFR § 58.34, “Exempt activities” or is categorically excluded (except in extraordinary circumstances) under 24 CFR §58.35(b) “Categorical exclusions not subject to §58.5”, no RROF is required, and the recipient may undertake the activity immediately after the Applicant has been notified by HCD of its determination that each activity or project is exempt or categorically excluded and a funding award has been made. The Applicant remains responsible for carrying out any applicable requirements under §58.6, “Other Requirements” and must provide documentation to HCD prior to commitment of HUD funds for any activity of compliance with §58.6.

If awarded funding, the standard agreement is subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Applicant agrees to assume responsibility to fully comply with CEQA’s requirements.

2. Match Exemption Application (Up to a maximum \$100,000 will be awarded)

a. General Requirement

HCD requires each ESG Subrecipient to provide match equal to 100 percent of the ESG funds that HCD awards. The only exception is outlined in Section III.C.2 of the HCD ESG Match Policy.

Applicants interested in applying for the match exemption must submit the request and required documentation at the time of their application via eCivis.

Please note: *The exemption request is only valid for the 2023 ESG applications/awards; no other funding year will apply under this application. Information noted below is not all inclusive. For specific HCD ESG policy information, please read the full document listed on our webpage here: [“ESG Match Policy”](#).*

b. Match Exemption

Under each fiscal year’s (FY) annual ESG allocation, HCD is not required to match the first \$100,000 allocated. HCD is required to pass this benefit to the Subrecipient or Subrecipients who are least able to provide match.

HCD uses its annual Subrecipient ESG application process to determine which Subrecipient(s) will receive the match exemption via the following process:

- Each Subrecipient’s application will receive a ‘match exemption score’
- The ‘match exemption score’ (**up to a maximum of 10 points**) is calculated as follows:
 - o **2 points** are allocated to the following Subrecipients, which are considered rural and therefore disproportionately likely to be under-resourced:¹
 - Marin County CoC

¹ CA HCD reserves the right to amend this list at its discretion.

- Napa City & County CoC
 - Vallejo/Solano County CoC
 - Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County
 - Davis/Woodland/Yolo County CoC
 - El Dorado County CoC
 - Imperial County CoC
 - Inyo, Mono, Alpine Counties CoC
 - Merced City & County CoC
 - Roseville/Rocklin/Placer County CoC
 - Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC
 - Visalia, Kings, Tulare Counties CoC
 - Nevada County CoC
 - Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa Counties CoC
 - Chico/Paradise/Butte County CoC
 - Colusa, Glenn, Trinity Counties CoC
 - Humboldt County CoC
 - Lake County CoC
 - Mendocino County CoC
 - Redding/Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen, Plumas, Del Norte, Modoc, Sierra Counties CoC
 - Tehama County CoC
 - Yuba City & County/Sutter County CoC
- **3 points** are allocated to Subrecipients that meet either of the following criteria:
 - During the annual monitoring process, HCD reported a concern or finding related to the Subrecipient’s difficulty producing the necessary level of match; or
 - During the previous year, the Subrecipient provided 75 percent or less of its match requirements.
 - **Up to 5 points** are allocated to Subrecipients who indicate as part of their application that they would like to receive the match exemption; points will be awarded based on a short narrative in which Subrecipients will be asked to explain the circumstances that qualify them as unable to meet the match requirement, with more points being allocated to Subrecipients reporting greater relative need.

.....
 If one Subrecipient receives the highest ‘match exemption score,’ that Subrecipient will receive the full \$100,000 match exemption; if multiple Subrecipients receive the highest ‘match exemption score,’ the match exemption will be divided among no more than two of the highest-scoring Subrecipients, at HCD’s sole discretion;

HCD has final decision on which Subrecipient(s) benefit from the match exemption and its decision cannot be appealed.

3. Street Outreach Requirements (SO)

All Applicants that are awarded funding for the street outreach (Street Outreach or “SO”) activity are now required to develop and implement written policies and procedures (P&Ps) that fully

details their ESG-SO operations. **At minimum, they must include the following content pieces:**

- a. Written Standards;
- b. Coverage Area;
- c. Coordinated Entry Integration;
- d. Participant Eligibility;
- e. Suite of Services;
- f. Staffing Patterns;
- g. Housing Problem-solving;
 - i. Diversion
 - ii. Rapid Exit
- h. Other Requirements; and
- i. General Operations.

A Street Outreach Policy has been developed and is available to all ESG CoCs and stakeholders for guidance on operating their SO programs. Please see the ESG Webpage, Resources: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/esg/ca-hcd-esg-street-outreach-policy.pdf>.

4. Emergency Shelter Requirements (ES)

All Applicants that are awarded funding for the Emergency Shelter activity are now required to develop and implement written policies and procedures (P&Ps) that fully details their ESG-ES operations. **At minimum, they must include the following content pieces:**

- a. Written Standards;
- b. Coordinated Entry Integration;
- c. Participant Eligibility;
- d. Suite of Services;
- e. Staffing Patterns;
- f. Housing Problem-solving;
 - i. Diversion
 - ii. Rapid Exit
- g. General Operations;
- h. Other Requirements; and
- i. Approval.

An Emergency Shelter Policy has been developed and is available to all ESG CoCs and stakeholders for guidance on operating their ES programs. Please see the ESG Webpage, Resources: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/esg/ca-hcd-esg-emergency-shelter-policy.pdf>.

5. Rapid Re-Housing Requirements (RRH)

All Applicant's that are awarded funding for the Rapid Re-Housing activity are now required to develop and implement written policies and procedures (P&Ps) that fully details their ESG-RRH operations. **At minimum, they must include the following content pieces:**

1. Coordinated Entry Integration;

2. Participant Eligibility;
3. Suite of Services;
4. Staffing Patterns;
5. Termination and Appeals;
6. Other Requirements;
7. General Operations; and
8. Approval.

A Rapid Re-Housing Manual has been developed and is available to all ESG CoCs and stakeholders for guidance on operating their RRH programs. Please see the ESG Webpage, Resources: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/ESG-Rapid-Rehousing-Manual.pdf>.

6. Single Audit and Form 990 Required with Submission of Applications

All Applicants must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that they are following the financial management requirements of [2 CFR Part 200](#).

If applicable, the Applicant must provide the Department with its most recent single audit (as submitted to the State Controller's Office), as well as the latest filed Form 990. If the Applicant has any open single audit findings and does not have a plan or an agreement to remediate those findings, the Applicant will be deemed ineligible for funding through the State ESG program until the findings are resolved or a remediation plan or agreement is established.

All single audit findings are included in this evaluation. This requirement is not limited to federal funds administered by the Department. If an Applicant is not subject to single audit requirements, the Applicant is not required to submit an audit, however the Applicant is required to certify as such. Applicants that fail to disclose findings on their most recent single audit will be disqualified without exception or appeal.

7. Homelessness Prevention Requirements (HP) (Reminder)

All Applicants that are awarded funding for the Homelessness Prevention activity are now required to develop and implement written policies and procedures (P&Ps) that fully detail their ESG-HP operations. **At minimum, they must include the following content pieces:**

- Participant Triage;
- Coordinated Entry Integration;
- Participant Eligibility;
- Suite of Services;
- Staffing Patterns;
- Termination and Appeals;
- Other Requirements;
- General Operations; and
- Approval.

A Homelessness Prevention Manual has been developed and is available to all ESG CoCs and stakeholders for guidance on operating their HP programs. Please see the ESG Webpage, Resources: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/esg/cahcd-esg-homelessness-prevention-policy.pdf>.

8. Expenditure Milestones (Reminder)

Applicants that are awarded funding under this 2023 BoS allocation will be required to meet the following expenditure milestones. This is stated in the 2023 ESG Standard Agreement, Exhibit E. **Provision Ex. A – E.3** (Expenditure Milestone Requirements - As referenced in Exhibit A, Section 4 (G)).

Percentage of ESG Award that must be expended	Milestone Deadline
20%	120 days after execution of contract
50%	180 days prior to expenditure deadline
80%	60 days prior to expenditure deadline

9. Grants Management System (GMS) (Reminder)

The implementation of the new eCivis Grants Management System (GMS) is called “Grants Network”. Grants Network will allow Applicants to apply for ESG funding online and will track the status of their application once submitted. This new system is easier to navigate and does not require Applicants to submit hard copies of the application to HCD. Grants Network will support programs and projects from application through to implementation and closeout and will connect with other digital accounting and reporting systems used by both the Department and HUD. HCD will only be accepting the 2023 ESG applications and all supporting documentation through the GMS.

2023 ESG Applications must be accessed through the [eCivis portal - Programs Available for Solicitation page](#). Paper binder applications will no longer be required or accepted.

10. Advancing Racial Equity (Reminder)

Pursuant to direction from HUD, as provided at the links below, Applicants should prioritize the advancement of racial equity at all levels of the homeless response system. The Department asks Contractors to be leaders in their homeless response systems, facilitating partnerships among service organizations and promoting racial equity practices. Contractors must respond to disproportionality in access to services, service provision and outcomes. Contractors cannot simply rely on delivering a standardization of services to address equity. Contractors have the responsibility to examine their data to ensure all eligible persons receive equitable services, support, and are served with dignity, respect, and compassion regardless of circumstances, ability, or identity.

When applying for ESG funds, Applicants should consider:

- What are your community’s racial demographics and the demographics of those within your homeless response system?
- In your community’s captured data, what are the outcomes of the homeless response system based on race? What are your requirements for all

Subcontractors to analyze data to determine racial disparities and then put a plan in place to address them?

- How do underserved and marginalized communities learn about and enter ESG programming? What marketing and communication strategies are used to increase equitable access to ESG programming?
- How does your grant making process include prioritization for programs that are addressing the disproportionate impacts that homelessness has on communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous communities?
- How are the voices of Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native and Indigenous communities, and those with lived experience of homelessness, being centered in a meaningful, sustained way in creating effective approaches to reducing and ending homelessness? How are they involved in the funding decision-making process?
- How are these funds accessible to smaller and non-traditional organizations that have historically been serving communities of color but may not have previously participated formally in the CoC or be a part of the homeless Service Provider community, and how would these funds address the organizational capacity of organizations that are led by Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous people that support the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring?
- List your partner organizations that are addressing racial equity in the housing and homeless response system, and how do you partner with them?

The Department will require Applicants to submit related racial and ethnic data metrics of the homeless population and those served by the CoC Service Area from their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) on a quarterly reporting basis.

The Department recommends that Contractors refer to and utilize the Racial Equity Tools available on the HUD Exchange to inform efforts to advance racial equity within the homeless response system. The tools are available at the following link:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/news/new-coc-racial-equity-analysis-tool/>.

The Department also encourages Contractors to refer to the Increasing Equity in the Homeless Response System through Expanding Procurement Tool from the HUD Exchange to help guide practices in this area at the following link:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6083/covid19-homeless-system-response-increasing-equity-in-the-homeless-response-system-through-expanding-procurement/>.

D. Authorizing Legislation

Federal funding under this NOFA is made available pursuant to Subtitle B of Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This NOFA should be read in conjunction with the following regulations that establish state and federal ESG requirements. Relevant legal authority includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\), Title 24, Part 576;](#)
- [25 CCR, Division 1, Chapter 7, Subchapter 20;](#)

- [24 CFR Part 91 relating to Annual Action Plan requirements;](#)
- [24 CFR Part 58, relating to environmental reviews;](#)
- The **ESG Program Interim Rule** was first published in the Federal Register on December 5, 2011, and became effective on January 4, 2012. The public comment period for the ESG rule closed on February 3, 2012. A second public comment period in which HUD was seeking additional feedback and comment on certain, limited provisions of the ESG Program Interim Rule closed on August 3, 2015. An updated version of the ESG Program Interim Rule was published in the Federal Register on April 1, 2017.
- **Chronically Homeless Definition Final Rule:** The Interim Rule, published in the Federal Register on December 4, 2015, cited above, provides the chronically homeless definition that applies to the ESG program;
- [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) requirements for Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration, 2 CFR Part 25, Appendix A to Part 25.](#)

If state or federal statutes or regulations, or other laws relating to the ESG program are modified by Congress, HUD, HCD, or the State Legislature, the changes may become effective immediately and impact the work that was awarded funding under this NOFA.

If there is a conflict between the state and federal regulations, the federal regulations shall prevail. In addition, HCD reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to suspend or amend the provisions of this NOFA. If such an action occurs, HCD will notify interested parties. Awards made under this NOFA are also contingent upon HCD receiving an award letter from HUD for 2023.

E. Role of Continuum of Care in the BoS Allocation

CoCs play an integral role in recommending homeless Service Provider Applicants who compete for funds through their local procurement process. Applications from homeless Service Providers shall only be considered if they are recommended by the CoC where the proposed Activity is located. CoCs are required to submit the **CoC recommendation package**, which can be found in the eCivis Grants Network System, ESG Balance of State Solicitation page.

- **For single-county CoCs**, a maximum of two applications may be recommended by each CoC for the regional competition and a maximum of two applications may be recommended by each CoC for its noncompetitive funds.
- **For multi-county CoCs**, a maximum of three applications may be recommended by each CoC for the regional competition and a maximum of three applications may be recommended by each CoC for its noncompetitive funds.

In making these recommendations, the CoC must follow a fair and open process that meets the requirements of 25 CCR § 8404. In addition, CoCs must submit a letter of recommendation that certifies the Service Provider selection process was compliant with the requirements of 25 CCR Sections: 8404, 8408, and 8409. Among other things, CoCs are responsible for ensuring that the Service Provider will:

- Provide eligible sources of matching funds;

- Operate consistently with system-wide written standards, adopted by the CoC for the proposed eligible Activity;
- Enter data into the applicable community-wide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) operated by the CoC; and
- Use the CoC's Coordinated Entry System (CES) in a manner that prioritizes access to people with the most severe needs and otherwise promotes consistency with the [Core Practices](#).

II. **BoS Non-competitive Funding**

F. **Overview**

Subject to the maximum number of applications (discussed in the above section), CoCs are responsible for recommending homeless Service Providers for non-competitive RRH funds for a minimum of 40 percent and up to a maximum of 50 percent of ESG funds in their BoS formula allocation as listed in [Appendix A](#). In making this recommendation, CoCs shall use a process that meets the following requirements:

1. Is a fair and open competition that avoids conflicts of interest in project selection, implementation, and the administration of funds;
2. Considers selection criteria reasonably consistent with the criteria identified in the BoS regional competition;
3. Complies with the Core Practice requirements in 25 CCR § 8409;
4. Incorporates the performance standards set forth in HCD's Annual Action Plan;
5. Complies with federal and applicable state ESG regulations;
6. Considers any other practices promoted or required by HUD; and
7. Ensures the funded homeless Service Provider(s) maintain documentation of satisfactory match pursuant to the requirements of 24 CFR Part 576.201.

Note: 25 CCR § 8408(e) prohibits subpopulation targeting with ESG funds in Homelessness Prevention (HP) and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) programs except if documentation of both of the following is provided to HCD prior to the award of funds for these activities:

1. Evidence of an unmet need for these activities for the subpopulation proposed for targeting.
2. Evidence of existing funding in the CoC Service Area for programs that address the needs of the excluded populations for these activities.

G. **Annual Action Plan requirements**

The following requirements regarding the BoS activities are in HCD's Annual Action Plan. Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 91, the Annual Action Plan is required by HUD and governs the distribution and use of ESG funds allocated by HUD to states and local governments. CoCs must adhere to these requirements as part of their Service Provider recommendation process.

H. Amounts available for Administrative Activities

Recommended local government Contractors may request up to \$200 of federal ESG funds to pay for direct administrative costs².

I. Eligible Activities

As identified and codified in the state ESG regulations³, all eligible activities (Activities) are detailed in the federal ESG regulations, 24 CFR § 576. Pursuant to the state authority, Activities that are specifically not eligible include: renovation, conversion, or major rehabilitation; said Activities are restricted under 24 CFR Part § 576.102. Minor repairs to an ESG-funded ES that do not qualify as renovation, conversion, or major rehabilitation are an eligible use of state ESG funds (25 CCR § 8408(d)).

The following additional limitations apply:

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

ESG funds may be used for HMIS Activities associated with contributing data derived from ESG-funded programs. As defined in state regulations, HMIS includes the use of a comparable database as permitted by HUD. Costs cannot exceed 10 percent of the total amount requested per application. HMIS Activities must comply with HUD's standards on participation, data collection, and reporting. See 24 CFR § 576.107 for a complete list of eligible HMIS costs.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Assistance and 10 Percent Combination Applications

ESG funds may be used to provide housing relocation and stabilization services and short- or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

A minimum of 40 percent and up to a maximum of 50 percent of a CoC's BoS formula allocation may be accessed non-competitively for Rapid Re-Housing.

In combination with their Rapid Re-Housing activity, Applicants may request the following 'add-ons' to their non-competitive Rapid Re-Housing application:

- Up to 10 percent of the total application for Street Outreach;
- Up to 10 percent of the total application for Homelessness Prevention;
- Up to 10 percent of the total application for HMIS.

RRH Activities must meet all the HUD requirements specified at 24 CFR § 576.104, 24 CFR § 576.105, and 24 CFR § 576.106, including, but not limited to, requirements for:

- Eligible program participants;
- Eligible costs, including financial assistance costs and services costs;
- Maximum amounts and periods of assistance;

² 24 CFR Part 576.108

³ 25 CCR 8408

- Use with other subsidies;
- Limitations on maximum rent levels;
- Rental assistance agreement with owner;
- Lease agreement between owner and participant; and
- Condition of housing where assistance is provided.

Note: Rental assistance payments provided as part of an RRH or HP Activity under 24 CFR Part 576.106 typically cannot exceed HUD's Fair Market Rent (FMR)⁴. Assistance must also comply with HUD's standard for rent reasonableness⁵. Requests for exceptions to the FMR can be made to HUD through HCD and must be approved in writing by HUD. Contact your HCD Representative in the Federal Programs Branch for further assistance.

In addition to federal requirements⁶, no subpopulation targeting will be permitted in RRH Activities unless documentation of the following is provided to HCD prior to the award of funds for these Activities:

1. Evidence of an unmet need for these Activities for the subpopulation proposed for targeting; and
2. Evidence of existing funding in the CoC Service Area for programs that address the needs of the excluded populations for these Activities.

J. Terms of Assistance

Minimum and maximum grant limits

There will be no individual application minimum and maximum grant amounts established by the state for the non-competitive RRH set-aside. The CoC shall determine the amounts of each individual application.

Maximum number of applications, contracts, and subcontracts

1. Under the non-competitive allocation, for single county CoCs, no more than two applications shall be recommended by the CoC and submitted to HCD. HCD will award no more than two non-competitive allocation contracts per single-county CoC Service Area. For multi-county CoCs, no more than three applications shall be recommended by the CoC and submitted to HCD. HCD will award no more than three non-competitive allocation contracts per multi-county CoC Service Area.
2. There are two types of subcontracting permitted under ESG.

A subcontract does not absolve the Contractor from any responsibility or liability to HCD. The Contractor is fully liable and responsible for ensuring that the Subcontractor adheres to all state and federal laws and regulations in carrying out its services or Activities.

⁴ 24 CFR Part 888

⁵ 24 CFR Part 982.507

⁶ 25 CCR § 8408

- a. Subcontracting for services provided to the funded program. Procuring services related to carrying out the funded program is permissible. Examples: security, supportive services, food services. Federal procurement rules may apply.
- b. Applications that contain multiple ESG-eligible Activities as permitted under HCD's Annual Action Plan or this NOFA may subcontract with separate Service Providers for those ESG-eligible Activities. For example, RRH programs that request funds for both RRH and HMIS may subcontract with a different entity for their HMIS.

Notwithstanding the above, contracting with, or in any way assigning the ESG grant in part or whole to another Service Provider for any Activity is strictly prohibited and will forfeit any associated awarded monies, unless approved in writing by HCD.

The following table summarizes eligible ESG Activities under the non-competitive Rapid Re-Housing set-aside:

ACTIVITY	ALLOWABLE ESG AMOUNTS AND PERCENTAGES PER APPLICATION UNDER <u>NON-COMPETITIVE</u> RRH SET-ASIDE (Unless otherwise noted)
For single-county CoCs , up to two applications may be submitted. For multi-county CoCs , up to three applications may be submitted.	
Rapid Re-Housing	<u>Non-competitive set-aside</u> : Per allocation, CoC must elect a minimum of 40 percent and a maximum of 50 percent of their BoS formula allocation.
Street Outreach	Up to a maximum of 10 percent of a total application request when requested in combination with RRH. The SO Activity may be subcontracted to another eligible Service Provider or may be provided directly by the Applicant.
Homelessness Prevention	Up to a maximum of 10 percent of a total application request when requested in combination with RRH. The HP Activity may be subcontracted to another eligible Service Provider or may be provided directly by the Applicant.
HMIS	Up to a maximum of 10 percent per application. The HMIS Activity may be provided directly by the Applicant or may be subcontracted to another eligible Service Provider.
Grant Administration	Local government Service Providers may request up to \$200 per application for Grant Administration.

Note: Applicants are urged to consult the relevant state and federal regulations for full requirements associated with each Activity.

III. BoS Regional Competitive Requirements

A. Amounts available for Administrative Activities:

Recommended **local government** Service Providers may request up to \$200 of ESG funds.

B. Eligible Activities:

All Applicants must obtain a recommendation from their CoC. Under the regional competition, for single-county CoCs, no more than two applications shall be recommended by the CoC and submitted to HCD. HCD will award no more than two contracts through the regional competition per single-county CoC Service Area.

For multi-county CoCs, no more than three applications shall be recommended by the CoC and submitted to HCD. HCD will award no more than three contracts through the regional competition per multi-county CoC Service Area.

The following Activities are eligible under the BoS regional competition:

1. Pursuant to state ESG Regulation 25 CCR § 8408, all Activities permitted under the federal ESG regulations, 24 CFR § 576, shall be eligible **except for renovation, conversion, or major rehabilitation Activities under 24 CFR Part 576.102**. Minor repairs to an ESG-funded ES that do not qualify as renovation, conversion, or major rehabilitation are an eligible use of state ESG funds. (25 CCR § 8408(d)).
2. The following additional limitations apply:

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

ESG funds may be used for HMIS Activities associated with contributing data derived from ESG-funded programs. As defined in the state ESG regulations, HMIS includes the use of a comparable database as permitted by HUD. HMIS Activities must comply with HUD's standards on participation, data collection, and reporting. See the federal regulations for a complete list of eligible HMIS costs. HMIS is limited to 10 percent of the total application amount.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Assistance and 10 Percent Combination Applications and Street Outreach (SO) and Homelessness Prevention (HP)

ESG funds may be used to provide housing relocation and stabilization services, and short- or medium-term rental assistance, as necessary to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

Rapid Re-Housing may be requested as a stand-alone Activity or Applicants may request up to 10 percent per RRH application for SO and 10 percent per RRH application for HP without having to apply separately. The SO and/or HP Activity may be provided directly by the Applicant or may be subcontracted to another eligible Service Provider. Stand-alone SO applications are also permitted. **Stand-alone HP applications are not permitted.**

Rapid Re-Housing Activities must meet all the HUD requirements specified at 24 CFR Part 576.104 including, but not limited to, requirements for:

- Eligible program participants;
- Eligible costs, including financial assistance costs and services costs;
- Maximum amounts and periods of assistance;
- Use with other subsidies;
- Limitations on maximum rent levels;
- Rental assistance agreement with owner;
- Lease agreement between owner and participant; and
- Condition of housing where assistance is provided.

Note: Rental assistance payments provided as part of an RRH or HP Activity under 24 CFR Part 576.106 typically cannot exceed HUD's FMR as provided under 24 CFR Part 888 and must comply with HUD's standard for rent reasonableness as established under 24 CFR Part 982.507. Request for exceptions to FMR can be made to HUD through HCD and must be approved in writing by HUD. Contact your HCD Representative in the Federal Programs Branch for further assistance.

In addition to federal requirements, pursuant to 25 CCR § 8408, no subpopulation targeting will be permitted in RRH Activities unless documentation of both of the following is provided to HCD prior to the award of funds for these Activities:

1. Evidence of an unmet need for these Activities for the subpopulation proposed for targeting.
2. Evidence of existing funding in the CoC Service Area for programs that address the needs of the excluded populations for these Activities.

Emergency Shelter (ES)

ESG funds may be used to cover the cost of providing essential services and shelter operations, as defined in the federal regulations 24 CFR § 576.102, to homeless individuals and families in an ES. An ES is any facility where the primary purpose is to provide a temporary shelter for general or specific populations experiencing homelessness and that does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements. Hotel or motel vouchers may only be used as ES if there is no other appropriate ES available for a homeless individual or family. State and federal ESG regulations do not impose a maximum length of stay on ES Activities. Consistent with the state's Core Practices in 25 CCR § 8409 (b), programs should seek to help participants quickly identify barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing, and quickly resolve their housing crisis before providing other non-related housing services. Federal regulations prohibit involuntary family separation for children under the age of 18.

ESG-funded ES Activities must operate for the full term of the ESG grant contract and must comply with all requirements of 24 CFR Part 576.101, which addresses maintenance of effort requirements to ensure ESG funds are not replacing local

government funds during the immediate 12-month period before the ESG contract takes effect.

Day Shelters

A day shelter must meet the criteria in the ES definition to compete as an ES. The primary purpose of a day shelter must be to provide temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness. Facilities such as multi-purpose centers or stand-alone soup kitchens do **not** qualify as an ES. Day shelters must target people who are sleeping on the streets, living in places not designed for human habitation, or in an ES. Clients experiencing such homelessness must be permitted to stay at the day shelter during all hours it is open for shelter.

Street Outreach

ESG funds may be used for SO Activities that include the costs of providing essential services necessary to reach out to unsheltered homeless people, connect these individuals with ES, housing, or critical services, and provide urgent, non-facility-based care to unsheltered homeless people who are unwilling or unable to access ES, housing, or an appropriate health facility.

Eligible Activities include engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services, transportation, and services for special populations, as defined in the federal regulations 24 CFR § 576.101. ESG-funded SO Activities must operate for at least as long as the term of the ESG grant and must comply with the requirements at 24 CFR Part 576.101(c), which addresses maintenance of effort requirements to ensure ESG funds are not replacing local government funds during the immediate 12-month period before the ESG contract takes effect.

While SO is an eligible stand-alone Activity, it may also be proposed in conjunction with RRH or ES. SO is included with RRH or ES to facilitate reaching and prioritizing persons experiencing homelessness, who are unsheltered and living in places not designed for human habitation for services, consistent with the state's Core Practices⁷.

Homelessness Prevention (HP)

HP Activities are not eligible as a stand-alone Activity but may be proposed in conjunction with ES (for example, to facilitate shelter diversion) or with RRH Activities (for example, to facilitate preventing homelessness of a previously assisted individual or family experiencing instability after RRH assistance has ended).

ESG funds can provide housing relocation and stabilization services and short- or medium-term rental assistance to individuals or families “at risk of homelessness”⁸, but only to the extent of helping the individuals or families regain housing stability.

⁷ 25 CCR § 8409

⁸ 24 CFR Part 576.2

In addition to federal requirements, pursuant to 25 CCR § 8408(e), no subpopulation targeting will be permitted in HP Activities unless documentation of both of the following is provided to HCD prior to the award of funds for these Activities:

1. Evidence of an unmet need for these Activities for the subpopulation proposed for targeting; and
2. Evidence of existing funding in the CoC Service Area for programs that address the needs of the excluded populations for these Activities.

C. Terms of Assistance

Minimum and maximum grant limits

Each application submitted must be for a **minimum of \$75,000** and a **maximum of \$200,000**. These amounts include all eligible Activities, including HMIS, and indirect costs.

1. There are two types of subcontracting permitted under ESG. A subcontract does not absolve the Contractor from any responsibility or liability to HCD. The Contractor is fully responsible for ensuring that the Subcontractor adheres to all state and federal laws and regulations in carrying out its services or Activities.
 - a. Subcontracting for services provided to the funded program. Procuring services related to carrying out the funded program is permissible. Examples: security, supportive services, food services. Federal procurement rules may apply.
 - b. Applications that contain multiple ESG-eligible Activities as permitted under HCD's Annual Action Plan or this NOFA may subcontract with separate Service Providers for those ESG-eligible Activities. For example, RRH programs that request funds for both RRH and HMIS may subcontract with a different entity for their HMIS.

Notwithstanding the above, contracting with, or in any way assigning the ESG grant in part or whole to another Service Provider for any Activity is strictly prohibited, unless approved in writing by HCD.

D. The following table summarizes the eligible ESG Activities under the regional competition.

ACTIVITY	ALLOWABLE ESG AMOUNTS AND PERCENTAGES PER APPLICATION UNDER THE <u>REGIONAL COMPETITION</u> (Unless otherwise noted)
For single-county CoCs, up to two applications may be submitted. For multi-county CoCs, up to three applications may be submitted.	
Rapid Re-Housing	<u>Regional competition</u> : \$75,000 minimum, \$200,000 maximum per application.
Emergency Shelter	\$75,000 minimum, \$200,000 maximum per application.
Street Outreach	\$75,000 minimum, \$200,000 maximum per application as a stand-alone Activity, or up to a maximum of 10 percent of a total application (not to exceed \$20,000) when requested in addition to RRH or ES. The SO Activity may be

ACTIVITY	ALLOWABLE ESG AMOUNTS AND PERCENTAGES PER APPLICATION UNDER THE REGIONAL COMPETITION (Unless otherwise noted)
	subcontracted to another eligible Service Provider or may be provided directly by the Applicant.
Homelessness Prevention	Up to a maximum of 10 percent of a total application request (not to exceed \$20,000) when requested in combination with RRH or ES. The HP Activity may be subcontracted to another eligible Service Provider or may be provided directly by the Applicant. No stand-alone HP applications are permitted.
HMIS	Up to a maximum of 10 percent per application (not to exceed \$20,000). The HMIS Activity may be subcontracted to another eligible Service Provider or may be provided directly by the Applicant.
Grant Administration	Local government Service Providers may request up to \$200 per application.
	Note: Applicant's budgets must identify a 'primary' activity.

Note: Applicants are urged to consult the relevant state and federal regulations for all requirements associated with each Activity.

E. Regional Competition Application Requirements:

CoC Application Recommendations

Applications shall only be considered if they are recommended by the CoC where the proposed Activity is located. CoCs are *required to submit the **CoC recommendation package*** through the <https://portal.ecivis.com/#/login>.

Recommended applications may not include funding requests of less than \$75,000 or more than \$200,000. In recommending Applicants through the regional competition, the CoC must follow a procurement process consistent with 25 CCR § 8404(a)(4) including, but not limited to, the following:

- B. Conducting a fair and open competition that avoids conflicts of interest in project selection, implementation, and the administration of funds; and
- C. Considering state application eligibility and rating criteria as described in the "Application Threshold Requirements," "Application Submittal Requirements," and the "Rating Criteria" sections of this NOFA.

Selecting an eligible Activity or Activities to be offered consistent with the state's **Core Practices** as described in 25 CCR § 8408 and § 8409. To document that the Service Provider selection process meets ESG requirements, the CoC must submit the following:

1. A letter or other documentation that describes the Service Provider selection process and certifies that their process meets the requirements of 25 CCR Sections: 8404, 8408, and 8409.
2. The Applicant-ranking list that shows for each application recommended for funding: (a) the Applicant name and address; (b) project name and address; (c)

proposed Activities and proposed subpopulation targeting, if any, with ESG funds; (d) city(ies) and county(ies) where proposed Activities will be provided; and (e) dollar amounts recommended for funding by Activity.

3. For each application not recommended for funding: (a) the Applicant name and address; (b) project name and address; (c) proposed Activities and proposed subpopulation targeting, if any, with ESG funds; (d) city(ies) and county(ies) where the Activities were proposed; and (e) dollar amounts requested by Activity.

F. Application Threshold Requirements

An application must meet the following threshold requirements to be eligible for rating and ranking:

1. Applicants **must** follow instructions in both this NOFA and the online application. Failure to follow instructions will result in disqualification.
2. The ESG application and all required attachments must be submitted to HCD through the eCivis Portal located at <https://portal.ecivis.com/#/login>. Applications must include all required information to be submitted.
3. The application was complete and received by the deadline.
4. The Applicant is eligible as described in **Section III(B)** of this NOFA.
5. The CoC recommends the Applicant from the Service Area where the proposed Activity is located, as documented by the certification of approval from the CoC. **Note:** Single-county CoCs may recommend no more than two applications. Multi-county CoCs may recommend no more than three applications.
6. The application includes a funding request of at least \$75,000, but not more than \$200,000.
7. Proposed Activities are eligible pursuant to Section III Subsection B of this NOFA.
8. Pursuant to 25 CCR § 8401, Applicants must have adequate and documented site control for any application proposing an ES Activity.
9. The application includes a certification of written standards for the proposed Activities adopted by the CoC, as described in Section VI of this NOFA.
10. The application must include a completed **Authorizing Resolution (AR)** on the HCD template and approved by the Applicant's governing board. The AR designates a person or persons responsible for, and authorized to execute, all documents related to the application of ESG funds, ESG award, and submittal of funds requests. Please see the instructions for completing the required HCD AR template on the ESG website. Failure to use the required AR template provided by HCD will result in automatic disqualification. If a governing body must prepare a separate resolution concurrently that conforms to its local standard, it may do so in addition to preparing the AR form

provided by HCD. *In the event the Applicant's AR is not submitted by the application due date, then the entire application will be deemed untimely and thus automatically rejected in its entirety.*

11. Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 576.202 (a)(2) for private non-profit organizations proposing ES Activities, the application must include a Certification of Local Approval completed and signed by the city or county where the Activity is located.
12. For applications from private nonprofit-organizations, the application contains the organization's current bylaws and articles of incorporation.
13. All Applicants must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that it is following the financial management requirements of 2 CFR Part 200. The Applicant must provide the Department with its most recent single audit (as submitted to the State Controller's Office), if applicable, as well as the most recent year's Form 990. If the Applicant has any open single audit findings and does not have a plan or an agreement to remediate those findings, the Applicant will be deemed ineligible for funding through the State ESG program until the findings are resolved or a remediation plan or agreement is established.
14. Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 576.201, Applicants must have identified dollar-for-dollar match for the federal ESG funding with funds from other public or private sources.

An application may be deemed ineligible if the application does not meet the threshold requirements, if the application is incomplete, or if HCD cannot determine compliance with the threshold requirements. HCD may request clarification of unclear or ambiguous statements made in the application and other supporting documents if this information will not affect the competitive scoring of the application. HCD may request documentation necessary for compliance with state or federal requirements and may request that an Applicant revise application documents, as necessary to establish compliance, if such revisions do not affect the competitive scoring of the application.

G. Rating Criteria (25 CCR § 8407)

All applications meeting the threshold requirements will be rated based on the following criteria:

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Max Points</u>
Applicant Experience	Length of experience implementing the proposed eligible Activity or Activity like the proposed eligible Activity.	20
	For Applicants who have received ESG funding in at least one of the past three years (e.g., 2019, 2020, or 2021), a maximum of 20 points will be deducted for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCD has terminated or disencumbered ESG grant funding; • The Applicant has unresolved monitoring findings in ESG that pose a substantial risk to HCD; or • The Applicant has not submitted annual reports in a timely manner for ESG grants. 	-20

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Max Points</u>
Program Design	<p>Quality of the proposed program in delivering eligible Activities to participants consistent with the CoC's written standards and state ESG Regulation section 8409 Core Practices. The CoC representative must self-certify the Core Practice Table in the application is true and correct.</p> <p>In making determinations under this rating factor, HCD may examine such things as CoC written standards for the proposed Activity, Service Provider guidelines governing Activity operations, program rules for clients, the reasonableness of program staffing patterns, and the Activity budget relative to program design, target population, and local conditions.</p>	20
Need for Funds	<p>Need for funds is based on whether the application Activity and subpopulation targeting, if any, meets a high need for the community as identified by the CoC in a manner that is consistent with the state's Core Practices.</p> <p>Need is supported by data and analysis provided by the CoC, including, but not limited to, HMIS data and data from the most recent Point-in-Time Count of homeless persons published by HUD.</p>	10
Impact and Effectiveness	<p>Scoring for the performance outcomes in the impact and effectiveness-rating factor will be evaluated using data from HMIS for the federal fiscal years October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021, and October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022, or for those projects not in operation during this entire time, the most recent 12-month period. For data coming from victim Service Providers, data from a HUD-compliant comparable database may be used.</p> <p><u>Project-level performance data – up to 24 points</u> The project level measures are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Average length of project participation for individual leavers <u>CoC Program HMIS Manual</u> 2) Leavers exiting to permanent housing. Scores assigned will be based on relative success rate. For project-level performance metrics, programs of the same Activity type (i.e., SO, ES, RRH) will only be compared against programs of that same Activity type. <p><u>System-Level Performance Data – up to 6 points</u> Reports submitted by the CoC must be consistent with HUD's February 2019 System Performance Measures. Scoring will be based on the CoC Service Area's shown improvement in either of the following two measures over the federal fiscal years October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021, and October 1, 2021 –</p>	30

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Max Points</u>
	September 30, 2022: 1) The Change in Exits to Permanent Housing, (Measure 7b1, or as may be renumbered by HUD); or 2) Increases in the number of Chronically Homeless served, as measured under Metric 3.917, or as may be renumbered by HUD.	
Cost Efficiency	<p>Using HMIS and expenditure data for federal fiscal year October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022, or, for those programs not in operation during this entire time, Applications will be evaluated based on the average cost per exit to permanent housing based on the total program expenditures for the proposed Activity and the number of exits to permanent housing CoC Program HMIS Manual.</p> <p>For data coming from victim Service Providers, data from a HUD-compliant comparable database may be used.</p> <p>HCD may require additional documentation to verify the accuracy of the information provided. If this occurs, the Applicant shall promptly provide such documentation.</p>	10
TOTAL		90

Application Selection

Applications will be ranked based on their score as follows:

1. Within each regional allocation, applications will be ranked in descending order and awarded the amount requested in the application, or a revised amount if necessary to conform to funding limits in the NOFA. In the event of a tie between Applicants within a regional allocation, funds will be awarded to the Applicant who scored the most points in the Impact and Effectiveness rating factor.
2. When there are insufficient funds to fully fund the next highest ranked application, this application may be partially funded if the approved Activities can be adequately performed with the remaining ESG allocation (25 CCR § 8407 (b)(3)).

Applicants are advised that, if funded, their application will be incorporated by reference into the Standard Agreement.

HCD will carefully examine the Applicant’s records at the time of grant monitoring to determine the accuracy of statements made in their application. If it is determined that an Applicant falsified any certification or application information, HCD reserves the right to require reimbursement of the full amount of the ESG award and to prohibit further participation in the ESG program. HCD may also impose any other actions permitted under 24 CFR Part 576.501 (c).

Appeals

Time is of the essence in awarding federal ESG funds. Any funding delays could result in the loss of all ESG funding received by HCD. Therefore, HCD's funding decisions are final and are **not** subject to appeal.

IV. Eligible Applicants

To provide ESG-eligible Activities within a CoC Service Area as listed in [Appendix A](#), Applicants must be either private non-profit organizations or units of general-purpose local governments. In addition, all Applicants must have a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. Applicants must list their DUNS number in the ESG application. Evidence of an active DUNS number with the correct Applicant address is required as part of the application and may be obtained by searching the System for Award Management (SAM). Applicants must include a copy of the search result in the application.

HCD will not award any ESG funds to Applicants that are debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation from federally assisted programs.

Private non-profit organization, as defined in 24 CFR Part 576.2, is an organization that: 1) is a secular or religious organization described in Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under subtitle A of the Codes; 2) has an accounting system; 3) has a voluntary board; 4) practices nondiscrimination in the provision of assistance; and 5) does not include a governmental organization, such as a public housing agency or housing finance agency.

Faith-based organizations receiving ESG funds, like all organizations receiving HUD funds, must serve all eligible program participants without regard to religion.

Units of general-purpose local governments, as defined in 24 CFR Part 576.2, are any city, county, town, township, parish, village, or other general-purpose political subdivision of a state.

Units of general-purpose local governments applying for ESG funding for ES and/or SO Activities must not replace funds the local government provided for these Activities during the immediately preceding 12-month period, except in situations of severe financial deficit as determined by HUD.

V. Eligible costs

Contractors and their recommended Subcontractors must follow all the OMB Cost Principles and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The OMB requirements are listed in 2 CFR Part 200.

Shifting costs between awards to overcome funding deficiencies is not allowed.

Costs charged to the ESG program must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable.

- Allowable costs must conform to any limitations or exclusion set forth in the federal cost principles and the ESG NOFA. In addition, allowable costs must comply with the policies and procedures afforded all Activities within the Contractor or Subcontractor organization, and must be treated consistently, whether as an indirect or direct cost. Finally, allowable costs must comply with the GAAP and the costs must be adequately documented.
- Allocable costs are those treated consistently with other costs incurred for the same purpose in-like circumstances, and these costs must meet the requirements listed in 2 CFR Part 200.405.
- Reasonable costs do not exceed, in nature or amount, costs that would be incurred by a prudent person under the same or similar circumstances prevailing at the time a decision was made to incur the cost.

Eligible costs may be direct or indirect. They must be incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances and must be treated consistently as either direct or indirect costs.

- Direct costs are those costs that can be identified specifically with a particular final cost objective (such as the ESG award) and can be directly assigned to an Activity relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy.
- Indirect costs are those that have been incurred for common or joint objectives and cannot be readily identified with a particular final cost objective or Activity.

HCD will reimburse Contractors for indirect costs at a “de minimus rate” based on the Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) unless the Contractor has a federally authorized indirect cost rate agreement. If the Contractor has a federally authorized indirect cost rate agreement, HCD will reimburse Contractors for indirect costs at the authorized rate. If an Applicant is requesting an indirect cost rate higher than 10 percent, based on a federally authorized indirect cost rate agreement, that agreement must be submitted with their application. Contractors that will seek reimbursement for any indirect costs must comply with all OMB requirements including 2 CFR Part 200.403 and 2 CFR Part 200 Appendix 4. Contractor records must include evidence of the MTDC calculations, indirect cost limits, and supporting documentation for actual direct cost billing.

All eligible costs incurred after the date of the ESG award letter issued by HCD are reimbursable after full execution of the state Standard Agreement. Contractors shall not plan to expend any state ESG funds requiring reimbursement prior to the award letter. In addition, no funds shall be expended until any required environmental review process has been completed, if required under 24 CFR Part 50.

VI. Implementation requirements

A. Core Practices

Use of Coordinated Entry: Unless exempted by federal rules, all ESG-funded Activities shall utilize a Coordinated Entry System (CES) established by the CoC in a manner that promotes the following:

1. Comprehensive and coordinated access to assistance regardless of where an individual or family is in the CoC Service Area. Local systems should be easy to navigate and have protocols in place to ensure immediate access to assistance for people who are experiencing homelessness or are most at-risk.
2. Prioritized access to assistance for people with the most urgent and severe needs, including, but not limited to, survivors of domestic violence. ESG-funded Activities shall seek to prioritize people who:
 - Are unsheltered and living in places not designed for human habitation;
 - Have experienced the longest amount of time homeless;
 - Have multiple and severe services needs that inhibit their ability to quickly identify and secure housing on their own; and
 - For HP Activities, are at greatest risk of becoming Literally Homeless⁹ without an intervention and are at greatest risk of experiencing a longer time in ES or on the street should they become homeless.

Housing First practices: All ESG-assisted projects shall operate in a manner consistent with Housing First practices as reflected in the state’s Core Practices¹⁰ and the CoC written standards and progressive engagement and assistance practices, including the following:

1. Ensuring low-barrier, easily accessible assistance to all people, including, but not limited to, people with no income or income history, and people with active substance abuse or mental health issues;
2. Helping participants quickly identify and resolve barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing;
3. Quickly resolving a participant’s housing crisis before focusing on other non-housing related services;
4. Allowing participants to choose the services and housing that meets their needs, within practical and funding limitations; and
5. Connecting participants to appropriate support services available in the community that foster long-term housing stability.

Progressive engagement: Offering financial assistance and supportive services in a manner that offers a minimum amount of assistance initially, adding more assistance over time, if needed, to quickly resolve the participant’s housing crisis by either ending homelessness, avoiding an immediate return to becoming literally homeless, or avoiding the imminent risk of becoming homeless. The type, duration, and amount of assistance offered shall be based on an individual assessment of the household and the availability of other resources or support systems to resolve their housing crisis and stabilize them in housing.

⁹ The Homeless Definition and Eligibility for SHP, SPC, and ESG, “Homeless Definition”

¹⁰ 25 CCR § 8409

RRH and HP terms of assistance: RRH Activities funded within the same CoC Service Area shall follow the same program requirements for type, duration, and amount of assistance provided, unless the CoC provides sufficient written justification for any differences, and these are approved in writing by HCD. HP Activities funded within the same CoC Service Area shall follow the same program requirements for type, duration, and amount of assistance provided, unless sufficient written justification for any differences is provided by the CoC and HCD approves such justification in writing.

B. Written Standards

Funded Activities must operate consistently with the written standards currently adopted by the CoC and applicable to all similar Activities. In general, written standards address such things as policies and procedures for evaluating eligibility, targeting, and prioritizing of services, length and terms of assistance, coordination among services, and participation in HMIS. Applicants should consult the federal regulations for what should be addressed in written standards for each Activity.

In addition, state regulations require that written standards reflect the state's Core Practices¹¹, including:

1. Protocols for use of coordinated entry to promote comprehensive and coordinated access to assistance and prioritized while prioritizing access to assistance for people with the most urgent and severe need;
2. Use Housing First and progressive engagement practices; and
3. Consistent program requirements governing decisions around type, duration, and amount of assistance provided if multiple RRH or HP programs are operated within the same Service Area.

C. Match

Contractors must make matching contributions in an amount that equals the amount of federal ESG funds awarded. HCD may request documentation as part of program monitoring to determine the sources and amounts used to meet the federal ESG matching requirement.

Matching contributions may be obtained from any source, including any federal source other than the ESG program, as well as state, local, and private sources. However, the following requirements apply to matching contributions from a federal source of funds:

1. Laws governing any funds to be used as matching contributions do not prohibit those funds from being used to match ESG funds.

¹¹ 25 CCR § 8409

2. Per 24 CFR Part 576.201, if ESG funds are used to satisfy the matching requirements of another federal program, then funding from that program may not be used to satisfy the matching requirements.

VII. Contract expenditure and obligation requirements

All the Contractor's ESG funds must be expended for eligible Activity costs within 24 months after the date HUD signs the grant agreement with HCD.

After the Standard Agreement with HCD is fully executed, Contractors may request an advance of 30 days working capital or \$5,000, whichever is greater. Otherwise, all funding requests are on a reimbursement-only basis.

All eligible costs incurred after the date of the award letter issued to the Contractor by HCD are reimbursable. Contractors shall not expend any funds requiring reimbursement prior to the date of the award letter. However, no funds shall be expended until any required environmental review process has been completed, if required under 24 CFR Part 50.

Requests for disbursement must be made at least quarterly. HCD may establish minimum reimbursement amounts, or other related procedures necessary for the efficient administration of the ESG program.

VIII. State Overlays

It is the duty and responsibility of each Applicant to review the provisions, requirements, and limitations of all funding sources applied for and obtained for a particular project, program, or activity to ensure that each requirement of those funding sources is compatible with all HCD program requirements and restrictions. Incompatibility of funding sources will result in the denial or cancellation of an award or may result in the placement of conditions or limitations on an award, all as determined by HCD in its sole and absolute discretion.

IX. Additional Federal Requirements

A. General

The requirements in [24 CFR Part 5, subpart A](#) are applicable, including the nondiscrimination and equal opportunity requirements found at [24 CFR Part 5.105\(a\)](#). Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968 and implementing regulations at [24 CFR Part 75](#) apply, except that homeless individuals have priority over other Section 3 residents in accordance with [24 CFR Part 576.405\(c\)](#).

B. Program Requirements: 24 CFR Part 576

- [§ 576.400](#) Area-wide systems coordination requirements.
- [§ 576.401](#) Evaluation of program participant eligibility and needs.
- [§ 576.402](#) Terminating assistance.
- [§ 576.403](#) Shelter and housing standards.
- [§ 576.404](#) Conflicts of interest.
- [§ 576.405](#) Homeless participation.
- [§ 576.406](#) Equal participation of faith-based organizations.

§ 576.407	Other Federal requirements.
§ 576.408	Displacement, relocation, and acquisition.
§ 576.409	Protection for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking
§576.500	Recordkeeping and reporting requirements.
§576.501	Enforcement.

C. Other Federal Requirements

Contractors must be able to meet all federal requirements relative to the ESG program, specifically those concerning equal opportunity and fair housing, affirmative marketing, environmental review, displacement, relocation, acquisition, labor, lead-based paint, asbestos, conflict of interest, debarment, and suspension. Pertinent federal requirements are noted in federal ESG regulations and ESG Standard Agreements. All Applicants should be aware that, if funded, these requirements would apply.

X. False, Fictitious or Fraudulent Claims

Warning: Any person who knowingly makes a false claim or statement to HUD or the Department may be subject to civil or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. Sections: 287 and 1001 as well as 31 U.S.C. § 3729.

A. Detecting, Preventing, and Reporting FRAUD

Fraud is a white-collar crime that has a devastating effect on the ESG program because the ESG program beneficiaries are victims of this crime when the ESG program is abused.

HCD wants to stop any criminal assault on the ESG program it administers, and in doing so all ESG funds go to people it was designed to help and improve their living conditions.

Combatting Fraud

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is committed to protecting HUD's programs, operations, and beneficiaries from dishonest individuals and organizations.

HUD cannot combat fraud alone.

HUD relies on HCD and ESG NOFA Applicants to combat ESG program fraud. HUD also relies on Applicants for, and people receiving, HUD benefits, such as tenants receiving rental assistance, borrowers with HUD insured loans, or citizens having their communities restored using HUD grants.

The HUD OIG Hotline number is 1-800-347-3735. This is the primary means to submit allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, or whistleblower related matters for the ESG program to the Office of Inspector General.

HUD OIG accepts reports of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement in the ESG program from HUD employees, anyone administering the ESG program, anyone working in the ESG program, Contractors, and the public.

You can report mismanagement or violations of law, rules, or regulations by HUD employees or program participants.

Fraud, waste and abuse in the ESG program and its operation may be reported in one of the following four (4) ways:

Email to: hotline@hudoig.gov

By Phone: Call toll free: 1-800-347-3735

By Fax: 202-708-4829

By Mail: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

**HUD OIG, Office of Investigation, Room 1200
Field Office**

One Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94104
[\(213\) 534-2518](tel:(213)534-2518)

**HUD OIG, Office of Investigation
Suite 4070
Regional Office**

300 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
[\(213\) 534-2518](tel:(213)534-2518)

XI. Application Submittal Requirements

The online 2023 ESG application link is available on the ESG webpage at <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/programs-active/emergency-solutions-grants>. 2023 ESG Applications **must** be accessed through the [eCivis portal - Programs Available for Solicitation page](#). **Paper binder applications will no longer be required or accepted.**

Applications and required documentation must be received by HCD no later than **Monday, October 16, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time**. Any applications received after this time will not be accepted.

Submit applications and all required documentation through the [eCivis Grants Management System portal](#). Applications that do not meet the filing deadline will not be eligible for funding.

Applicants are encouraged to set up their profiles in the eCivis Grants Management System portal located at <https://portal.ecivis.com/#/login> as early as possible. Profile set-up instructions can be found in the **eCivis Grants Management System, External User Manual** on the ESG webpage at <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/programs-active/emergency-solutions-grants>.

If you have trouble logging into the portal or have questions on how to complete the online application, please contact HCD at ESGNOFA@hcd.ca.gov.

Questions regarding the ESG NOFA and application process can be directed to ESGNOFA@hcd.ca.gov.

Appendix A: 2023 Estimated BoS Formula Allocation

2023 Estimated BoS Allocation							
Region	CoC#	CoC Name	Formula Allocation	40% for RRH	Regional Competition after 40%	50% for RR	Regional Competition after 50%
Bay Area	507	Marin County CoC	\$ 154,030	\$ 61,612	\$ 92,418	\$ 77,015	\$ 77,015
	517	Napa City & County CoC	\$ 123,143	\$ 49,257	\$ 73,886	\$ 61,572	\$ 61,572
	518	Vallejo/Solano County CoC	\$ 213,595	\$ 85,438	\$ 128,157	\$ 106,798	\$ 106,798
	508	Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	\$ 290,001	\$ 116,000	\$ 174,001	\$ 145,001	\$ 145,001
Bay Area Totals			\$ 780,769	\$ 312,308	\$ 468,461	\$ 390,385	\$ 390,385
Central and Imperial	521	Davis/Woodland/Yolo County CoC	\$ 317,123	\$ 126,849	\$ 190,274	\$ 158,562	\$ 158,562
	525	El Dorado County CoC	\$ 125,746	\$ 50,298	\$ 75,448	\$ 62,873	\$ 62,873
	613	Imperial County CoC	\$ 290,963	\$ 116,385	\$ 174,578	\$ 145,482	\$ 145,482
	530	Inyo, Mono, Alpine Counties CoC	\$ 133,353	\$ 53,341	\$ 80,012	\$ 66,677	\$ 66,677
	520	Merced City & County CoC	\$ 357,649	\$ 143,060	\$ 214,589	\$ 178,825	\$ 178,825
	515	Roseville/Rocklin/Placer County CoC	\$ 210,849	\$ 84,340	\$ 126,509	\$ 105,425	\$ 105,425
	603	Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC	\$ 284,077	\$ 113,631	\$ 170,446	\$ 142,039	\$ 142,039
	513	Visalia, Kings, Tulare Counties CoC	\$ 389,705	\$ 155,882	\$ 233,823	\$ 194,853	\$ 194,853
	531	Nevada County CoC	\$ 168,582	\$ 67,433	\$ 101,149	\$ 84,291	\$ 84,291
Central and Imperial Totals			\$ 2,278,047	\$ 911,219	\$ 1,366,828	\$ 1,139,024	\$ 1,139,024
Northern	526	Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa Counties CoC	\$ 156,779	\$ 62,712	\$ 94,067	\$ 78,390	\$ 78,390
	519	Chico/Paradise/Butte County CoC	\$ 315,761	\$ 126,304	\$ 189,457	\$ 157,881	\$ 157,881
	523	Colusa, Glenn, Trinity Counties CoC	\$ 206,189	\$ 82,476	\$ 123,713	\$ 103,095	\$ 103,095
	522	Humboldt County CoC	\$ 286,269	\$ 114,508	\$ 171,761	\$ 143,135	\$ 143,135
	529	Lake County CoC	\$ 246,245	\$ 98,498	\$ 147,747	\$ 123,123	\$ 123,123
	509	Mendocino County CoC	\$ 237,825	\$ 95,130	\$ 142,695	\$ 118,913	\$ 118,913
	516	Redding/Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen, Plumas, Del Norte, Modoc, Sierra Counties CoC	\$ 314,301	\$ 125,720	\$ 188,581	\$ 157,151	\$ 157,151
	527	Tehama County CoC	\$ 256,366	\$ 102,546	\$ 153,820	\$ 128,183	\$ 128,183
	524	Yuba City & County/Sutter County CoC	\$ 312,334	\$ 124,934	\$ 187,400	\$ 156,167	\$ 156,167
Northern Totals			\$ 2,332,069	\$ 932,828	\$ 1,399,241	\$ 1,166,035	\$ 1,166,035
BoS Totals			\$ 5,390,885	\$ 2,156,354	\$ 3,234,531	\$ 2,695,443	\$ 2,695,443