

THE 2016 STATE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG): PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION



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WEBINAR LOGISTICS

- These slides and a recording of this webinar will be available on our website www.flhousing.org
- Participants are muted
- Enter your questions in the box in your webinar panel
- Handouts are available with this webinar
- If you have questions that would be addressed better individually, or you think of questions later, email pourciau@flhousing.org
- A survey will follow the webinar; *please* complete it!



BUT FIRST . . .



OBJECTIVES FOR TODAY

- New process of multi-year funding through CoC lead agencies
- Steps to completing your application
- Scoring (?)
- Things to watch out for
- Identify unresolved questions to submit to DCF

Disclaimer: I don't work for DCF and have no authority over the ESG program. I am providing professional guidance only.

Rely on the RFP postings on the Vendor Bid System and/or written communications with Mia Parker and Erik Braun.



WHAT WE *AREN'T* DOING

This webinar will *NOT* cover eligible costs and other ESG regulation specifics because we covered this on an earlier webinar

- The PPT for that webinar are attached to this webinar as a handout.
- Also, a recording can be found through:
http://www.flhousing.org/?page_id=7592

In addition, the RFP provides a good summary.

If you have questions in those areas, though,
please send me an email.



EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES

- Emergency Solutions Grant 24 CFR 576*
 - Attached as a handout to this webinar
- Continuum of Care Program 24 CFR 578*
- HUD Exchange
<https://www.hudexchange.info/esg/>

*To access current federal statutes, visit www.ecfr.gov



SOME REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ESG PROJECTS

- No discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; Equal access rule for families (no discrimination based on family composition, such as marital status, same-sex partners, etc.)
- *Prohibition against involuntary family separation.* The age of a child under age 18 must not be used as a basis for denying any family's admission to an emergency shelter that uses Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding or services and provides shelter to families with children under age 18
- HMIS & Coordinated Entry



SOME REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ESG PROJECTS (CON'T)

- Documentation and recordkeeping; Eligibility status must be documented in file, using the *documentation requirements established by HUD*
- To terminate a participant from the program, there must be a *formal termination process, consistent with statute*



OFFICIAL MATTERS

- Link to official postings regarding State ESG Request For Proposal (RFP):
http://www.myflorida.com/apps/vbs/vbs_www.ad_r2.view_ad?advertisement_key_num=126534
- NOTE: It's important to check that site to see new revisions of the RFP, as well as the posting of answers to questions submitted.
- Contact info for DCF Office on Homelessness Deputy Director, who handles RFPs:
Mia.Parker@myflfamilies.com



TIME LINE

- **5/9/16**, 3:00pm, Questions due to DCF
 - 5/13/16, Answers posted on VBS
- **5/10/16-6/7/16**, Local CoCs collect local projects, documents, put together application
- **6/8/16**, 3:00pm, Applications due to DCF
(note revised date)
- **July** – notification of awards



THE BIG SHIFT TO CoC APPLICATIONS

Eligible applicants are **CoC Lead Agencies** only. See handout to identify the lead agency for your CoC (Continuum of Care).

Nonprofits will not be able to apply directly to the State; they must apply to the CoC Lead Agency.

The CoC Lead will submit an application to the State on behalf of the providers in that CoC.

Note: Best practice would suggest that the CoC Lead Agencies should have a local competition/RFP process to select the projects to be included in the CoC State ESG application.

A local competition/RFP process is NOT required by the State – it's just a good practice for transparency and fairness.



THE BIG SHIFT TO MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS

- The CoC is applying, in effect, for **three years** of funding.
- The CoC can switch providers and, in some cases, activities the second and third years. (See next slide)
- The max funding for Year One is \$250,000 per CoC. (Note, however, there's not enough total money for every CoC to receive \$250,000.)
- The funding for Years Two and Three may be different.



POSSIBLE STRATEGY DUE TO MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTING

- Mia Parker indicated that if you don't include in Year One a specific activity [i.e., (1) outreach, (2) emergency shelter, (3) prevention, (4) rapid rehousing], you will have trouble changing your contracts for Years Two and Three to include that activity
- Possible strategy: Include some dollars in the budget for each of the activities to retain flexibility in the second and third years



STEPS

- Determine CoC priorities for the ESG \$
 - Street outreach to unsheltered
 - Emergency shelter (operations, essential services, and/or facility renovation/rehab/conversion)
 - Homelessness prevention
 - Rapid rehousing
 - HMIS
- Make sure the above priorities are in the “CoC Plan” that has been approved by your CoC Governing Board
 - The Plan must be submitted with your application



STEPS (CON'T)

- Launch local process for collecting project applications (RFP or other method)
 - Which activities will you include (O, ES, HP, RR, HMIS)?
 - By what criteria will you choose projects to be included in the CoC app?
 - Who will evaluate the local apps and choose projects for inclusion in the CoC app?
 - How will you share the 5% admin?
 - Suggestion: Use the same forms that are in the RFP



STEPS (CON'T)

- If you don't already have them, draft "Written Standards"
 - Standards don't have to be submitted with app but must be submitted before contracting (this was stated by Mia on the Q&A phone call)
 - Standards should be approved by the CoC
 - Standards should be CoC-wide, not specific to project
 - Local providers must adhere to them if funded
 - Standards should dovetail with standards adopted by the CoC for local jurisdiction ESG funding
 - Guidelines for the standards are in the RFP



STEPS (CON'T)

- Run required HMIS reports
- Complete local project selection process
- Gather required certifications, signatures, and supporting documents
- Finalize CoC application
- Submit by June 8, 2016 at 3:00pm



WATCH OUT FOR THIS

- Exhibit 9 – “*At least 40%* of the total project budget must be allocated to *prevention and re-housing* activities.”
- In your local process ensure that you will have adequate projects to submit for HP/RR



AND REMEMBER THIS

- The CoC Lead Agency will have elevated responsibilities since they are the applicant
- Funding for Years Two and Three will be, in part, dependent on “performance” in Year One
- Spend the money!!! If you don't spend your money, it is likely you will lose it.



SCORING

Three criteria (measures and weighting largely unknown at this time):

1. Need (See Exhibit 6)
2. Quality of Service (See Exhibit 5)
3. CoC Capacity

QUESTIONS FOR DCF

- Deadline for written inquiries is 3:00pm on 5/9/16 (today!)
- Email questions to Mia.Parker@myflfamilies.com
- Answers will be posted on the Vendor Bid System (VBS) on 5/13/16



GO FORTH AND SLAY THE DRAGON



WANT TO KNOW MORE?
HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?
OR
WANT A SITE VISIT OR TRAINING IN
YOUR CoC?

Email: pourciau@flhousing.org

A list of upcoming webinars, workshops, and trainings is available online at www.flhousing.org

