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!
Who Are You?
And why are you here?
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](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):

• 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