

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)/Letter of Interest (LOI)
Informational Meeting
Presenter: Loni Aadalen
September 29, 2020

Questions and Answers

Q. For agencies Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) requirement, do alternative compatible databases work to meet this requirement?

A. Yes, for victim and legal services only; non- victim and non- legal services will be expected to use HMIS.

Q. How many current contracted agencies do we have?

A. We currently have 18 agencies who are doing work in the all the required ESG program component areas.

Q. Why did we go with less contracted agencies (from 18 to 10)?

A. The funding amounts were very small and we had to think about efficiency for agencies and internal monitoring capacity.

Q. What criteria's are you looking for to cut 18 down agencies to 10?

A. This will go through the ranking committee to see if it aligns with targeted population and priorities.

Q. Are you looking for agencies that can do all the components?

A. No, we are looking for agencies that can best do each component areas, if agencies can do multiple or all component areas that would be great, but that's not a requirement for the LOI.

Q. Utilities are listed under rent assistance, is it to support rent assistance or is it separate?

A. Utility shut off would make a unit uninhabitable, so it would be eligible financial assistance to maintain habitability of the unit.

Q. Is the Letter of Interest (LOI) the only application?

A. Yes

Q. Where do we find the LOI?

A. The LOI is on the Heading Home Ramsey ([HHR](#)) website.

Q. Is the total ESG budget the same as pervious years?

A. Yes, it is roughly the same. Our current total ESG budget is \$523,897.

Q. If we are reducing the number of programs, is there more funds going across 10 agencies opposed to 18 agencies?

A. Correct, it is recommended to focus on what you can realistically provide, any target populations and services (i.e. rental assistance, case management, cost analysis and service capacity).

Q. Are there certain things that are being prioritized (i.e. prevention, cultural specific, targeted populations)?

A. Focus areas will be determined by the Ranking Committee; we can post the scoring information for providers on the [HHR](#) website.

Q. How do other jurisdictions prioritize ESG program priorities?

A. There is a broad range of priorities depending on the needs of the jurisdiction. Although, ESG priorities should align with the overall priorities of the CoC. HUD only provides guidance about the overall CoC.

Q. Where can we find a list of the current 18 contracted providers?

A. The list of the current providers was recently added to the [HHR](#) website.

Q. Is this current LOI for FY2021 or a different year?

A. The current LOI is for HUD ESG FY2021 funds, which will be administered (spent) during calendar year 2021.

Q. For current providers that just executed grant agreements this May, were those for FY2021 funds or another year?

A. The current 18 providers that just executed grant agreements this past May were for the HUD ESG FY2019 funds, to be used in calendar year 2020 (and into first quarter of 2021).

Q. There was references that the RFP for the ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – COVID-19 specific) funds were released recently for this geography; when did that come out?

A. Ramsey County, through Heading Home Ramsey, has not released the RFP/LOI yet for the City of St. Paul's ESG-CV funds. Ramsey County anticipates releasing that RFP/LOI after October 8th, at the earliest.

Q. As an organization, should we apply for the amount we have received in the past, or with fewer organizations projected to receive funds, should the organization apply for increased funding to be prepared to increase the level of services?

A. There is no set dollar amount or limit that agencies (organizations) can apply for. However, please remember that ESG funds requested must have a 100% match from another source. Also, similar to the Continuum of Care (CoC) process and the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) process, the Ranking Committee could ask agencies to increase or decrease their requested amount.