

King County Consortium Action Plan 2020

Attachment D: Emergency Solutions Grant Standards



Emergency Solutions Grant Standards

Specific HEARTH Emergency Solutions Grant Requirements

24 CFR Part 576, as amended by HEARTH Emergency Solutions Grant Interim Rule

Standards and Procedures for ESG Assistance

1. Eligibility

Clients served with King County Consortium ESG funds for 1) shelter, or 2) rapid re-housing must be “literally homeless” by HUD standards, which is defined as follows:

- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
 - An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals; or
 - An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.
 - Any individual or family who is fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual’s or family’s primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence; has no other residence; and lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.
2. Shelter component standards for admission, diversion, referral and discharge, length of stay and safeguards to meet needs of special populations. Homeless families in King County are screened, assessed, and placed in programs through the King County Coordinated Entry for All (CEA) system. CEA is our continuum of care’s coordinated entry program for all populations. All family emergency shelter programs that are funded as part of our continuum must participate in CEA.

Families screened by CEA must be literally homeless to enter an emergency shelter. If an immediate opening is not available, families are placed on a waiting list. Length of stay for a family in emergency shelter is determined by ability to transition the family to longer term housing, such as transitional housing or permanent housing at time of shelter discharge.

To ensure the safety of families who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, those families are exempted from some reporting requirements in CEA. The domestic violence service providers in King County participate in Day One Program, which is a secure and confidential site for referring domestic violence survivors and their children to real time shelter vacancies and services.

All youth and young adult providers are required to participate in the Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative. As part of this all CoC programs are asked to have their participants complete Community Sign In when utilizing an emergency shelter and drop in centers.

Process for Making Subawards

King County ESG grants for emergency shelter and rapid re-housing are awarded to subrecipient agencies through a competitive process that may be conducted for a multi-year period of annual ESG awards. The projects selected through this process must demonstrate a direct benefit to the geographic area of the King County consortium, consortium city and unincorporated King County residents. In addition, King County's CoC representative body, All Home, is consulted with, and has approved the use of King County ESG funds for emergency shelter and rapid re-housing.

Performance and Data

King County uses HUD HMIS data standards and performance indicators to capture and evaluate our CoC's performance regarding the reduction of homelessness through investments in homeless housing and services, and rapid re-housing. The CoC's HEARTH performance measures have been reviewed by the appropriate governing bodies, including the All Home Governing Board, Funder's Group and Inter-agency Council.

Data regarding rate of spending, timely drawdowns, risk assessment and monitoring results are used to evaluate performance with ESG and other homeless assistance funding. The CoC has a HEARTH Performance Measure Task Force that is tasked which sets consortium wide targets and benchmarks for measuring services provided and reducing homelessness. The measures of focus are: 1) reducing length of time homeless; 2) decreasing returns to homeless; and 3) decreasing first time homelessness.