

# The COVID-19 Pandemic

Federal Response Tools for People Experiencing Homelessness

# Why this topic?

A major objective of the GC COVID Rapid Response Team is to equip you with the necessary tools to help center youth of color and LGBTQ youth in your local response.

Step 1 is ensuring that we all have the same set of knowledge on some of the major HUD tools aimed at serving people experiencing homelessness during COVID.

Shared knowledge will help us take more effective **ACTION!**

# The HUD Tools Aimed at People Experiencing Homelessness and COVID-19

Today we are going to focus on 2 HUD tools that your Ride or Die team can leverage to better serve youth experiencing homelessness during the pandemic:

1. **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)**
2. **COVID-19 Waiver**

# Emergency Solutions Grants

Let's start with the new funds and how it is administered:

Do you know who to contact in your community about ESG funding decisions?

- 4 Billion in new funding
  - 1 Billion went out with the regular ESG formula on [3/24/2020](#)
  - 3 Billion will go out by June 2020
- Administered through metro-city, territory, and state ESG recipients
  - Meaning your community may be getting ESG from more than one source

	ESG Jurisdiction	ESG 2020 (for comparison)	CARES ACT ESG (1st allocation)
Hennepin	Minneapolis	\$971,353	\$3,349,493
	St. Paul	\$594,358	\$2,049,510
	Hennepin County	\$254,630	\$878,034
	Known total	\$1,820,341	\$6,277,037
	MN Nonentitlement	Some portion of \$2,201,143?	Some portion of \$7,590,148?
Miami	City	\$473,580	\$1,633,034
	Miami-Dade County	\$1,127,686	\$3,888,572
	Known total	\$1,601,266	\$5,521,606
	FL nonentitlement	Some portion of \$5,911,591?	Some portion of \$20,384,797
Richmond	City	\$392,068	\$1,351,959
	Henrico County	\$147,484	\$508,566
	Known total	\$539,552	\$1,860,525
	VA nonentitlement	Some portion of \$3,008,913?	Some portion of \$10,375,562?
Sacramento	City	\$421,643	\$1,453,941
	Sacramento County	\$506,761	\$1,747,452
	Known total	\$928,404	\$3,201,393
	CA nonentitlement	Some portion of \$12,757,275?	Some Portion of \$43,990,603
San Francisco	City	\$1,595,423	\$5,501,459
	Known total	\$1,595,423	\$5,501,459
	CA nonentitlement	Some portion of \$12,757,275?	Some Portion of \$43,990,603

# Emergency Solutions Grants

How can these funds be used?

1. Street Outreach – services to identify and engage people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
2. Emergency Shelter – operations and service dollars for emergency shelter, including non-congregate shelters and hotel/motel solutions
3. Homeless Prevention – services and short/medium term rental assistance for people at-risk of homelessness
4. Rapid Rehousing (RRH) – services and short/medium term rental assistance for people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness

# Picking an ESG Funding Bucket(s)

Not all of these buckets of funding will be made available locally and not all of them are priorities across different communities, particularly for youth.

So, let's start with reviewing the lay of the land and some youth considerations under each of the buckets. This may assist your community in starting to set local priorities or to further build out current priorities underway.

# Street Outreach & Emergency Shelter

## Street Outreach

- Consider how the current ESG street outreach funding is allocated, if there is direct outreach to youth and young adults, if a youth provider(s) has this covered, or if this could be a way to build out needed capacity.

## Emergency Shelter

- Consider both unaccompanied minors and youth 18-24 and how they were/weren't accessing shelter prior to COVID and what opportunities you may want to pursue under this funding to increase shelter access. this may include, non-congregate shelter options, including hotel and motel, isolation units throughout COVID, and/or youth centered services in non-youth dedicated shelters



# Homeless Prevention & RRH

## Homeless Prevention

- Consider the ways in which prevention funds were/weren't working for youth in your community prior to COVID and the ways in which you may want to advocate for flexibilities in the types of situations that qualify and the types of assistance offered through prevention.

## Rapid Rehousing

- Consider the ways in which ESG RRH has been prioritized and designed prior to COVID and the ways in which you may advocate for additional prioritization factors and new project design that better fits the needs of youth.

# Starting to Prioritize your Efforts

As you start mobilizing locally and working with your GC COVID Rapid Response Team, start thinking about how you want to prioritize your efforts in one or more of these buckets.

Consider:

- What young people in your community are saying they need and how they need it to be offered?
- What your data is showing you around need, access, and success of these different funding buckets? How does that look for youth of color and LGBTQ youth?
- What previous system gaps analysis and/or system modeling has shown as the priority need?

# Mobilizing Youth Directed Action

The CARES Act ESG also offers an opportunity for direct action from youth to help shape the response and reshape the system.

Consider:

- Phone, email, and other virtual actions to state your demands
- Responses to RFP to help ensure quality youth projects
- Design of projects to help ensure quality projects
- Staffing projects to help ensure peer engagement

# COVID-19 Waiver for ESG and CoC

HUD released a memo allowing providers to waive certain rules connected to Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions (ESG) grants.

- Flexibilities are time limited but can offer immediate assistance in serving young people during the pandemic

# CoC Waiver Highlights

- Rental and Utility Arrears in Supportive Services
  - Can be used to pay back rent and utilities to prevent youth from losing housing or assist in getting new housing and utility services
  - Can be used with any grant that has supportive services
- Less than 12 month lease in RRH and PSH
  - Gives flexibility in the types of housing that can be negotiated with landlords and roommates

# ESG Waiver Highlights

- Rental assistance up to rent reasonableness in RRH and PSH
  - Allows for more rental options in homeless prevention and RRH project by allowing providers to pay rents that are comparable to other units in the area
- Re-evaluation for homeless prevention
  - Allows for services for six months before having to re-evaluate

Let's get outreach services to our young people

Let's leverage these funds to create youth dedicated emergency housing?

Let's ensure young people doubled up and couch surfing are supported

Let's get started now on prioritization recommendations

## CARES Act ESG

Street Outreach

Emergency Shelter

Homeless Prevention

Rapid Rehousing

## ESG and CoC Waivers

- Leasing above FMR
- PSH documentation
- Rental & Utility Arrears

- RRH monthly case management
- HQS flexibility
- 12 month lease in RRH and PSH

- Rental assistance above FMR
- Prevention re-evaluation

- RRH monthly case management
- HMIS support

Let's start using these in youth dedicated CoC projects

Let's create guidance for ways to use these in non-youth dedicated projects

Let's start preparing for ways these maybe helpful to youth in the new and existing ESG funds.



# What's Next?

Your COVID RR Team has started working with each of your communities to understand the local priorities and begin crafting COVID related aims and/or support existing COVID aims underway.

Supports coming your way through the GC COVID RR Team:

- power mapping the COVID decision making process
- mobilizing strategies for direct action (101 training and ongoing coaching)
- support in crafting your strategic demands
- connection to HUD and national work to help guide efforts