

CITY OF BOSTON

**Substantial Amendment
To Program Year 2019 Action Plan
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**

**Emergency Solutions Grant -
CARES Act Funds**

Posted August 3 , 2020



Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

**Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing and Director,
Department of Neighborhood Development**

The Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) is amending its Program Year 2019 Action Plan, covering the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, to accept and expend special Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funds HUD is allocating to Boston in the amount of **\$5,195,210**, as authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136. These ESG-CV Round I funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

DND’s Supportive Housing Division and the Office of Housing Stability will manage the ESG-CV funds for individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to lessen the impacts of COVID-19. Given the immediate needs faced by this vulnerable population, HUD waived certain requirements and conditions with respect to ESG-CV funds:

1. Exempt from the match requirement;
2. Not subject to consultation and citizen participation requirements;
3. Deviations from applicable procurement standards are allowed;
4. No spending cap on emergency shelter and outreach;
5. 10% allowed for administrative costs, as opposed to 7.5%;
6. Increased the income limit from extremely low (30% area median) to very low (50% area median).

ESG-CV INCOME LIMITS	
Household Size	Maximum Income
1 person	\$41,500
2 persons	\$47,400

3 persons	\$53,350
4 persons	\$59,250

We are allocating **\$5 million (96%)** to the ESG activities shown in the table below based on responses the City received for funding from shelter providers and homeless services agencies. The remaining **\$195,210 (4%)** is allocated to administrative costs.

ESG-CV Budget by Activity		
Activity	Budget	% of \$5 Million
Emergency Shelter	\$1,072,814	21%
Street Outreach	-	-
Homeless Prevention	\$43,325	1%
Rapid Rehousing	\$3,883,861	78%
TOTAL	\$5,000,000	100%

Citizen Participation Process: The Substantial Amendment was prepared and submitted in accordance with the HUD waiver granted to expedite actions to respond to COVID-19. Specifically, the standard 30-day Citizen Participation Public Comment Period was waived. The Amendment is posted on the Department’s web page:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/plans-reports-and-notices>

General Notifications: DND emailed approximately 340 Policy News subscribers, individuals and organizations, on a list maintained for this

purpose; and, notified 10,000 followers on the Department’s Twitter and Facebook feeds.

Consultation: The Supportive Housing Division issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit applications from shelter and homeless service providers for ESG-CV funding. Based on feedback from the Continuum of Care (CoC’s) Housing and Stabilization Leadership Council, DND prioritized proposals that sought reimbursement for expenses incurred in the early days of the pandemic to respond to and prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Rapid rehousing proposals were also prioritized, in recognition of the need to keep people experiencing homelessness from returning to crowded congregate settings once auxiliary sites are dismantled.

Summary of Public Comments: A summary of the public comments received is provided below. Comments are grouped by issue and similar comments may have been combined or paraphrased. There is strong support for utilizing the ESG-CV funds for the activities shown on the previous page.

ESG-CV ROUND I FUNDS	
Comment	City’s Response
Reimburse shelter operators for expenses incurred in response to COVID-19	Issued RFP which listed this activity as a priority for ESG-CV funding
Reimburse shelter operators for expenses related to preventing the further spread of COVID-19	Issued RFP which listed this activity as a priority for ESG-CV funding
Invest in rapid rehousing interventions so that those experiencing homelessness do not return to crowded congregate settings	Issued RFP which listed this activity as a priority for ESG-CV funding

END