

CITY OF BOSTON

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

**Emergency Solutions Grant II
CARES Act Funds**

Posted October 14 , 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 **\$23,348,669** in a second award of Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funds HUD allocated to Boston as authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136. These ESG-CV Round II 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 the \$23.3 million to the ESG activities shown in the table below to reduce rates of unsheltered homeless, reduce the further spread of COVID-19 among the populations experiencing homelessness and rapidly rehouse hundreds of individuals and households experiencing homeless in Boston.

In order to be responsive to the needs of the City of Boston in preparing, preventing, and responding to coronavirus and its impact on people at risk of and experiencing homelessness, the Department of Neighborhood Development will routinely reevaluate our funding decisions throughout the period of performance. Consistent with the terms of all subrecipient grant agreements or contracts, the Department of Neighborhood Development intends to reprogram ESG-CV funding between selected activities or to include additional ESG-CV activities if/when necessary, based on infection control needs and response efforts related to preventing, preparing and responding to COVID-19.

ESG-CV Budget by Activity		
Activity	Budget	% of \$23.3 Million
Emergency Shelter	\$6,543,879	28%
Rapid Rehousing	\$16,000,000	68.5%
Homeless Prevention	\$0	-
Administration	\$804,790	3.5%

TOTAL	\$23,348,669	100%
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Citizen Participation Process: This 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) for Round 2 of ESG-CV funding to solicit applications from shelter and homeless service providers. Based on feedback from the Continuum of Care (CoC’s) Housing and Stabilization Leadership Council and City leadership, DND prioritized proposals that will create additional winter overflow beds for added emergency shelter capacity during the cold winter months. The RFP also prioritized investment in diversion resources positioned at the front door of shelter to identify safe alternatives to emergency shelter and to stem inflow into congregate settings. 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 and winter overflow capacity are dismantled.

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