

CARES Act Funding – Emergency Solutions Grant Plans

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), signed on March 27, 2020, made direct allocations to the City of Boston through three grant programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Housing Options for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) programs. These funds, totaling **\$49 million**, are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

The **\$28,543,879 in Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds** supports homeless services providers in Boston to assist with responding to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The City's overarching goals for this funding are to:

- reduce the rates of unsheltered homeless,
- prevent vulnerable households from becoming homeless,
- reduce the further spread of COVID-19 among the populations experiencing homelessness, and
- rapidly rehouse hundreds of individuals and households experiencing homelessness in Boston.

| ESG-CV Plans | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|---|
| Date/ Pages | Title | Purpose |
| August 2021 Pages 2-5 | ESG-CV III | Adjusted funding priorities, added eligible activities; amended the budget. |
| October 2020 Pages 6-9 | ESG-CV II | HUD awarded a second funding round; amended the budget. |
| August 2020 Pages 10-13 | ESG-CV | Initial funding award by HUD, established the budget. |

CITY OF BOSTON

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

**Emergency Solutions Grant Plan
CARES Act Funds**

Update August 2021



Kim Janey, Acting Mayor

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

To provide the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) full flexibility as allowed by HUD through ESG-CV Notice CPD-21-08, DND is amending its Program Year 2019 Action Plan, covering the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, to allow for investment in newly-added and additional eligible activities as described in the aforementioned notice. These ESG-CV 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: 50% Median Effective 6/01/21 | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Household Size | Maximum Income |
| 1 person | \$47,000 |
| 2 persons | \$53,700 |
| 3 persons | \$60,400 |
| 4 persons | \$67,100 |

Reprogramming ESG-CV activities

In response to the evolving public health emergency, we are adding eligible ESG activities, specifically Homelessness Prevention and Street Outreach in the budget table below to reduce rates of unsheltered homeless, prevent vulnerable households from becoming 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 (DND) will routinely reevaluate our funding decisions throughout the period of performance. DND 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 (August 2021) | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Activity | Old Budget | New Budget | % of \$28.5 Million |
| Emergency Shelter | \$7,616,693 | \$11,577,485 | 40.6% |
| Rapid Rehousing | \$19,883,861 | \$14,000,000 | 49% |
| Homeless Prevention | \$43,325 | \$1,187,350 | 4.2% |
| Street Outreach | \$0 | \$515,465 | 1.8% |
| HMIS | \$0 | \$458,792 | 1.6% |
| Administration | \$1,000,000 | \$804,787 | 2.8% |
| TOTAL | \$28,543,879 | \$28,543,879 | 100% |

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: In consultation with CoC general membership and the CoC's Housing and Stabilization Leadership Council and City leadership, the Supportive Housing Division solicited proposals from eligible nonprofits for Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) funding in two Request for Proposals (RFP):

RFP #EV00008027, issued May 12, 2020 and advertised May 25, 2020, and

RFP #EV00008471 issued September 28, 2020 and advertised October 12, 2020.

We received, evaluated, and awarded proposals that were submitted in response to both RFPs. After finalizing RFP awards, we had additional ESG-CV funding to allocate to homeless services providers in Boston to assist with responding to the COVID-19 public health crisis. In consultation with CoC general membership, the CoC's Housing and Stabilization Leadership Council and City leadership, we conducted additional outreach to nonprofit homeless service providers in Boston, contacting over 300 people to review the City's priorities for ESG-CV funding and ask for any further funding requests. Eligible nonprofits were invited to submit additional funding requests. Funding requests were reviewed for alignment with the City's priorities as stated in RFP #EV00008027 and RFP #EV00008471. Requests were awarded funding as needed to respond to the COVID-19 public health crisis in Boston.

END

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% |

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.

END

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 | \$0- | - |
| 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