

## **Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG):**

### **Additional ESG CV for OHP Homelessness Prevention/RRH/Street Outreach – ESG CV: \$2,222,772.92**

- Administration: \$222,277.29
- Program: \$2,000,495.63

### **Proposed Activities:**

ESG funds will be used to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

1. Homelessness Prevention/Rapid Re-housing (RRH): Temporary rental assistance, housing relocation, and housing stabilization services to assist individuals and families that are: 1) at-risk of homelessness, 2) literally homeless, and/or 3) living in emergency shelters or motels, with incomes up to 50% or less of AMI, to obtain permanent housing (if currently experiencing homelessness) or to maintain housing. Preference will be provided to extremely low-income households with incomes up to 30% of AMI.
2. Street Outreach: costs of providing essential services necessary to reach out to unsheltered homeless people; connect them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services; and provide case management to unsheltered homeless people who are unwilling or unable to access emergency shelter, housing, or an appropriate health facility.

The State will allocate \$2 million to this initiative to five (5) Homelessness Prevention/RRH subrecipients and three (3) Street Outreach subrecipients. The funds will be awarded through a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP will be posted on the Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) SAGE system (<https://dcasage.intelligrants.com/Portal.asp>) as a component of the State's FY 2023 Homelessness Diversion ESG-CV RFP. The maximum award for the OHP Homelessness Diversion ESG-CV RFP is \$250,000 per applicant.

The State will allocate \$2,222,772.92 to prevent or to rapidly exit 120 households from experiencing homelessness. The assistance provided through this project will consist of the following activities & costs:

#### **1. Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-housing**

##### ***a. Rental Assistance (max 3 months):***

- Short-term rental assistance (0-3 months)
- Rental arrears (One-time payment for up to 6 months of rent in arrears)

## ***b. Housing Relocation and Stability Services:***

### *Financial Assistance:*

- Rental Application Fees (when charged by owner to all applicants)
- Security Deposits (no more than 2 month's rent)
- Last Month's Rent (applies to 24-month cap)
- Utility Deposits (when required by utility company for all customers)
- Utility Payments (up to 24 months of payments per service, including up to 6 months of arrears per service)
- Moving Costs (e.g., truck rental, moving company, up to 3 months of storage)

### *Services Costs*

- Housing Search and Placement
- Housing Stability Case Management
- Mediation
- Legal Services
- Credit Repair (e.g., budgeting/ money management)

The activities outlined above will be conducted by new OHP Homelessness Prevention/RRH – ESG CV providers, adding additional interventional capacity to existing homelessness prevention services providers throughout the state. These grantees will be required to track all households assisted in HMIS.

## **2. Street Outreach**

Eligible costs for Street Outreach services include providing essential services necessary to reach out to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, connect them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services. Component services consist of engagement, case management, and transportation. Specific requirements and eligible costs include:

1. Engagement: The costs of activities to locate, identify, and build relationships with unsheltered homeless people including:

a. Initial assessment of needs and eligibility screening using CoC-endorsed prioritization tool (e.g., VI-SPDAT, Arizona SSM)

b. Providing crisis counseling

c. Actively connecting and providing information and referrals to programs targeted to homeless people and mainstream social services and housing programs

d. Addressing urgent physical needs, such as providing meals, blankets, clothes, or toiletries

e. Cell phone costs for outreach workers during the performance of street outreach activities

f. Salaries of staff conducting engagement work

2. Case Management: The costs of assessing housing or service needs, arranging, coordinating, monitoring the delivery of individualized services including:

a. Using County Coordinated Entry system or, for grantees in county's still developing coordinated entry, a referral pipeline with executed MOUs between the grantee and will coordinate and solicit referrals through the county's welfare agency (CWA), emergency shelter (ES) and supportive services only (SSO) providers, and local healthcare, government, and law enforcement entities.

b. Initial evaluation including verifying and documenting eligibility

c. Counseling

d. Developing, securing, and coordinating services

e. Obtaining Federal, state, and local benefits and identity documents

f. Monitoring and evaluating participant progress

g. Providing information and referrals to other providers

h. Developing an individualized housing and service plan, including planning a path to permanent housing stability

i. Salaries of staff conducting case management

3. Transportation— The costs of travel by outreach workers, social workers, health care professionals, or other service providers during the provision of services eligible street outreach services, including:

a. The costs of transporting unsheltered people to emergency shelters or other service facilities

b. The cost of a participant's travel on public transit

c. Mileage allowance for service workers to visit program participants

d. Purchasing or leasing a vehicle for staff use in conducting outreach activities, including the cost of gas, insurance, taxes, and maintenance for the vehicle

e. Costs of staff to accompany or assist participants to use public transportation

4. Services Special Populations: The costs of otherwise eligible Street Outreach services that have been tailored to address the needs of the special needs of homeless youth, disabled persons, victims of domestic violence and related crimes/threats, older persons (62 years of age and older), and/or people living with HIV/AIDS who are literally homeless, including:

- a. Engagement
- b. Case Management
- c. Housing Assistance

**Selection of Households:**

Households will be selected by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA)'s subrecipient through the Coordinated Entry process in each county's Continuum of Care & Homeless Management Information System. For those counties that have not finalized a Coordinated Entry process, the selected grantee will coordinate and solicit referrals through the county's welfare agency (CWA), emergency shelter (ES) and supportive services only (SSO) providers, and local healthcare, government, and law enforcement entities. Referral mechanisms for county's without Coordinated Entry will demonstrate referral relationships with these entities through 1) a LOGIC-model (or comparable project process model) outlining referral processes and 2) executed memoranda of understanding or agreement between the subrecipient and entities identified in the LOGIC model.

Households who are homeless but who, with up to 3 months of rental assistance and case management, may be able to sustain themselves will be identified. All household demographic data, including racial and gender composition, will be considered.

*Housing First*

All HUD funded programs adhere to Housing First principles per HUD. Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, which include but are not limited to:

- 1. Ensuring low-barrier, easily accessible assistance to all people, including, but not limited to, people with no income or income history, and people with active substance abuse or mental health issues;
- 2. Helping participants quickly identify and resolve barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing;
- 3. Seeking to quickly resolve the housing crisis before focusing on other non-housing related services;

4. Allowing participants to choose the services and housing that meets their needs, within practical and funding limitations;
5. Connecting participants to appropriate support and services available in the community that foster long-term housing stability.

### *Diversion*

DCA expects all subrecipients to incorporate Diversion into project operational strategy. Diversion helps people experiencing a housing crisis to identify and access safe alternatives to an emergency shelter quickly. Street outreach workers should work to resolve problems through natural supports and progressive engagement of “lighter touch” solutions before providing a more intensive response through the shelter system or any other homeless service. Diversion includes services such as: creative problem-solving conversations; connecting with community resources and family supports; housing search and placement to help individuals and families resolve their immediate housing crisis.

### *Eligibility*

Subrecipients will document that all program participants who receive homelessness prevention assistance meet the eligibility criteria of ‘at-risk of homelessness’ definition or paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of the ‘homeless’ definition AND has an annual income below 50 percent area medical income (AMI) as determined by HUD.

For the activities and eligible costs outlined above, “at-risk of homelessness” and “homeless” shall be defined using the CARES Act criteria set forth below:

a. At Risk of Homelessness. The CARES Act raised the income limit in paragraph (1)(i) of the “at risk of homelessness” definition at 24 CFR 576.2 from 30 percent of area median income to the Very Low-Income limit of the area, as determined by the Secretary.

At Risk of Homelessness means

(i) An individual or family who:

(a) Has an annual income that does not exceed the Very Low-Income Limit of the area, as established for HUD’s Section 8 and Public Housing programs at [www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html](http://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html);

(b) Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the “homeless” definition in 24 CFR 576.2; and

(c) Meets one of the following conditions:

(I) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;

(II) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;

(III) Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;

(IV) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals; (V) Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 persons reside per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;

(VI) Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or

(VII) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan.

(ii) A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under 24 CFR 576.2, but qualifies as "homeless" under section 387(3) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)), section 637(11) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832(11)), section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6)), section 330(h)(5)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)(5)(A)), section 3(m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(m)), or section 17(b)(15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)(15)); or

(iii) A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under 24 CFR 576.2, but qualifies as "homeless" under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)), and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that child or youth if living with her or him.

b. Homeless has the meaning established at 24 CFR 576.2 except that the limitation in paragraph (1)(iii) that 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 has been waived and the following alternative requirement established: An individual may qualify as homeless

under paragraph (1)(iii) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 576.2 so long as the individual is exiting an institution where the individual resided for 120 days or less and the individual resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution. This waiver and alternative requirement is necessary because recipients are reporting that program participants are residing in institutions for longer periods of time as a result of coronavirus (e.g., longer time in jail due to postponed court dates due to court closings or courts operating at reduced capacity and longer hospital stays when infected with coronavirus). Allowing someone who was residing in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation prior to entering the institution to maintain their homeless status while residing in an institution for longer than 90 days is necessary to prevent the spread of coronavirus by expanding housing options for people who were experiencing homelessness and institutionalized longer than traditionally required due to coronavirus.

**Process:**

1. Subrecipients will identify potential homelessness prevention and RRH participants through the Coordinated Entry process in each county's CoC and Homeless Management Information System.
2. For Street Outreach projects, subrecipients will coordinate with local and county government (e.g., libraries, parks), health care, and law enforcement entities to effect system entry for the unsheltered population who are NOT connected with other services such as day centers and emergency shelters, as these persons have the ability to access services and case management from these providers. Street Outreach work is unique with the ability to reach those who cannot or will not reach services on their own.
3. Identified households will be asked to complete an intake, program application packet and return to subrecipient for eligibility review.
4. For Street Outreach projects, subrecipients must determine an individual or family's vulnerability and willingness or ability to access emergency shelter, housing, or an appropriate health facility, prior to providing essential services under this component to ensure that ESG funding is used to assist those with the greatest need for street outreach assistance.
5. All applicants deemed eligible will be assigned to a OHP Homelessness Prevention/RRH case manager who will assess the household's needs and develop a plan to obtain and maintain housing. This assessment will include a review of the participant's monthly expenses and credit history and the creation of a housing stabilization plan.
6. For a Street Outreach project's engaged household, a referral pipeline and relationship will be established with the county's OHP Homelessness Prevention/RRH's project.
7. Once a unit is secured, OHP Homelessness Prevention/RRH subrecipient will provide a monthly subsidy directly to the program participants' landlords.
8. Each participant household will be reassessed at the six-month interval to determine if they are still in need of assistance; if so, assistance will be extended for up to an additional six months.

9. All participants will be required to apply to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and will be encouraged to apply to all open rental assistance waiting lists.

**ESG Program Budget:**

<b>ESG CARES Budget</b>	
<b>Total Additional Allocation</b>	<b>\$2,222,772.92</b>
<b>Program</b>	<b>\$2,000,495.63</b>
<i>1. Street Outreach</i>	<i>\$750,495.63</i>
a. Staff Salaries (assumes \$25.00/per hour – 3 staff per subrecipient [total 9 staff])	\$468,000.00
b. Vehicle purchase (assumes \$30,000 total cost – 1 vehicle per subrecipient)	\$90,000.00
c. Transportation costs (fuel, insurance, tolls, maintenance, client public transportation, diversionary transportation)	\$75,000.00
d. Items to address urgent physical needs (e.g., meals, blankets, clothes, or toiletries)	\$87,495.63
e. Miscellaneous (e.g., client Identity document fees, items related to emergency housing assistance for special populations)	\$30,000.00
<i>2. Homelessness Prevention &amp; RRH</i>	<i>\$1,250,000.00</i>
a. Staff Salaries (assumes \$52,000 per year – 1 case management staff per subrecipient [5 total])	\$260,000.00
b. Security Deposit (\$2,550 assumes a contract rent of \$1,700/month)	\$306,000.00
c. Utility Deposits (assumes \$500 per household)	\$60,000.00
d. Rental application fees (\$50 per household)	\$6,000.00
e. 3 months of rental assistance (assumes \$1,500 per month subsidy)	\$180,000.00
f. Moving cost assistance (\$600/household)	\$72,000.00
g. Miscellaneous (utility payments)	\$6,000.00
Total	\$1,250,000.00
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$22,277.29</b>
1. Subrecipient Admin (case management supervision, digital infrastructure [e.g., tablets and Wi-Fi], and HMIS/data collection)	\$20,000.00
2. DCA Admin	\$2,277.29