

**Addendum I**  
**COVID-19 National Declaration of Emergency**  
**and**  
**H.R.748 CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) ESG Funding**

Whereas the President of the United States declared a national emergency in relation to the SARS-CoV 2 virus and the COVID-19 outbreak as of March 1, 2020; and whereas Governor DeSantis declared a state of emergency for Florida on March 9, 2020 through Executive Order 20-52; and whereas Congress passed H.R. 748, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the CARES Act) on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with additional Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funding allocated to each state and Continuum of Care, the following amended written standards will apply throughout this declaration of national emergency and also apply to ESG funds allocated through the CARES Act for the areas listed below in relation to preparing for, preventing and responding to coronavirus. Preparing for, preventing and responding to coronavirus according to verbiage describing these activities as listed in the Department of Housing and Urban Development notice titled "Waivers and Alternative Requirements for the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program Under the CARES Act" section I.B.2.f.i-iii.

ESG-CV funds will be used to prepare for, prevent, and respond to coronavirus by engaging individuals who qualify the Centers for Disease Control "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) People at Increased Risk." These at high-risk include but are not limited to those of racial and ethnic minority groups; people with disabilities, developmental and behavioral disorders, drug and substance abuse disorders, people experiencing homelessness, those 65 years of age or older, and those with underlying medical conditions. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>).

All other written standards in this document remain unchanged in relation to the COVID-19 declaration of emergency.

### **Street Outreach**

Street outreach is a service for the specific purpose of reaching out to unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness; connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services; and providing urgent, non-facility-based care. Individuals defined as unsheltered must meet the criteria for: Category 1, literally homeless; or Category 4, fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence (where the individual or household also meet the criteria for category 1); and are:

- Living on the streets (or other places not meant for human habitation); *and*
- Unwilling or unable to access services in emergency shelter.

Sub grantees are required to target unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness and/or families whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not meant for human habitation.

Eligible costs for the Street Outreach component of ESG as defined in 24 CFR 576.101 include engagement; case management; emergency health services; emergency mental health services; transportation; and services for special populations (homeless youth, victim services, and people living with HIV/AIDS).

Street Outreach performed under ESG-CV funds prepares for, prevents and responds to

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### **Emergency Shelter**

The Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program interim rule establishes minimum standards for safety, sanitation, and privacy in emergency shelters funded with ESG. Eligible costs under 24 CFR 572.102 include essential services (case management, child care, education services, employment assistance and job training, outpatient health services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation, and/or services for special populations – homeless youth, victim services, and people living with HIV/AIDS); renovations; and shelter operations including the costs of maintenance (including minor or routine repairs), rent, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, food, furnishings, and supplies necessary for the operation of the emergency shelter.

Where no appropriate emergency shelter is available for a person or family experiencing homelessness, eligible costs may also include a hotel or motel voucher for that family or individual.

Emergency Shelter Services performed under ESG-CV funds prepares for, prevents and responds to coronavirus by providing sanitary shelter facilities, PPE and toiletry supplies for sanitation purposes, basic human needs, connection to Access Point entry into the Coordinated Entry process facilitating rapid moves into housing, quick identification of those that may be exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 to prevent further spread, and connection to life sustaining services for those at high risk for severe illness from the coronavirus as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control.

### **Rapid Rehousing**

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) services are intended to help eligible participants who are literally homeless, including fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence, to transition from the streets or shelter as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve housing stability. Rapid Rehousing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families exit homelessness quickly by returning to permanent housing without preconditions (including, but not limited to, sobriety, employment, absence of a criminal record, or income). Additionally, the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household receiving assistance.

Rapid Rehousing performed under ESG-CV funds prepares for, prevents and responds

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### Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible participants for service component must lack the resources or support networks to help them retain or obtain other appropriate, stable housing.
- Households must meet the HUD definition of homelessness Category 1 and Category 4.
- Programs may not establish additional eligibility requirements beyond those specified here for ESG and those required by local, state, and federal funders for non-ESG;
- For ESG funded programs, program participant household's annual income should be at or below 50% Area Median Income (AMI) at annual re-evaluation.
- Clients not eligible for RRH assistance will be referred to projects suitable to the client's need and eligibility.

### Prioritization

Eligible participants are referred to the Rapid Rehousing program based on the *Oneby1* Community By-Name List (BNL). Client's priority is based on the following data points:

- Susceptibility to Severe Illness due to COVID-19 as identified by the Centers for Disease Control,
- Vi-SPDAT Score,
- Length of time homeless,
- Length of time on the Community BNL, and
- Sub-population (i.e. Disabled, Domestic Violence, Youth, etc).

### Rent and Move in Assistance *(Updated 10/13/2020 per notice CPD-20-08 issued September 1, 2020.)*

- The term of rental assistance for RRH under ESG-CV is based on the client's need in order to regain stability in permanent housing. This can be as little as one month or be renewed for a maximum of 24 months. Rental assistance is limited to 12 months if the funding source substantial amendment was reviewed after 09/01/2020. This limitation currently applies to state ESG funds but does not apply to ESG through county funded projects.
- When rent is provided for a unit, the rent does not need to meet FMR but must still meet rent reasonableness standards.
- Extension of RRH and HP Assistance – Current ESG Program participants (those

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Per federal regulations, only those referrals made through Oneby1 Coordinated Entry to the sub grantee will be entered into the Rapid Rehousing program.

**Additional Eligible Activities** *(Added 10/13/2020 per notice CPD-20-08 issued September 1, 2020.)*

These additional eligible activities will be permitted in accordance with the applicable rules and limitations as stated in the notice.

- Hazard Pay - As permitted by the CARES Act, funds will be used to pay hazard pay for recipient- or subrecipient-staff working directly to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Examples of recipient or subrecipient staff working directly in support of coronavirus response include emergency shelter intake staff, street outreach teams, emergency shelter maintenance staff, emergency shelter security staff, staff providing essential services (e.g., outpatient health or mental health, housing navigators), and staff in proximity to persons with coronavirus or working in locations with a high likelihood of contracting coronavirus.

Hazard pay will be utilized in Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, and Rapid Rehousing Services.

- Landlord Incentives - ESG-CV funds may be used under to add the eligible cost of paying for landlord incentives as reasonable and necessary to obtain housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and at risk of homelessness. However, a recipient may not use ESG-CV funds to pay the landlord incentives set forth below in an amount that exceeds three times the rent charged for the unit.
  - Eligible landlord incentive costs include:
  - Signing bonuses equal to up to 2 months of rent
  - Security deposits equal to up to 3 months of rent
  - Paying the cost to repair damages incurred by the program participant not covered by the security deposit or that are incurred while the program participant is still residing in the unit.

Landlord Incentives will be utilized in Rapid Rehousing Services.