

Emergency Solutions Grant Program Substantial Amendment Program Year 2011

This document is the substantial amendment to the State of Louisiana Consolidated Plan.

The State of Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, is responsible for the oversight and administration of the Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In order to receive these funds, the State must prepare a Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Action Plan describing the uses of funds for each program in accordance with federal guidelines.

On December 5, 2011, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) posted the Interim Rule in the Federal Register for regulations regarding the Emergency Solutions Grants Program. This Interim Rule "...revises the regulations for the Emergency Shelter Grants Program. All entitlement communities are required to operate under the interim rules effective January 4, 2012. The change in the program's name, from Emergency Shelter Grants to Emergency Solutions Grants, reflects the change in the program's focus from addressing the needs of homeless people in emergency or transitional shelters to assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness."

On January 12, 2012, HUD announced the amounts of the second allocation of the FY2011 ESG programs for the ESG grants. In order to receive funds for the second allocation, the State of Louisiana must prepare, submit and obtain HUD approval of a Substantial Change Amendment to its Program Year (PY) 2011 Consolidated Annual Action Plan. The plan is due to HUD on May 15, 2012.

The amendment addresses the second round of funding of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program ("Round 2" funding). This substantial amendment is organized by the categories that the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requires be included in the ESG Substantial amendment. These include:

- Summary of the consultation process;
- Summary of the Citizen Participation Process;
- Matching funds;
- Proposed activities for Round 2 ESG and eligible funding/budget;
- Written Standards for Provision of ESG Assistance;
- The process for ESG Round 2 awards;
- Homeless Participation requirement; and
- Required performance standards.

The HUD-required SF-424 and ESG certifications are submitted to HUD with the final document

The State of Louisiana has prepared this substantial amendment to describe its plans for the use of the second allocation of the FY 11 ESG program funding. The funding activities will include rapid re-housing of homeless individuals and households, homeless prevention and housing relocation and stabilization services, and administration.

Summary of Consultation Process

The State Department of Children and Family Services, the local Continuum of Care, and other external stakeholders partnered to ensure that ESG's enhanced homelessness prevention and re-housing role is part of an integrated, statewide strategy to end homelessness and improve housing and stability outcomes for families and individuals. The partners were consulted on determining allocation of ESG funds; identified eligible activities; developing performance standards, policies and procedures for the administration of the Homeless Management and Information System.

Citizen Participation

The State will hold a public meeting on May 10, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. in the Public Library, 830 W. Alexander Avenue, Port Allen, Louisiana. This meeting will be open to the public and will include an overview of the ESG changes and the proposed uses for the new allocation of funding. The Substantial Amendment will be available for review on the state's website at www.dss.state.la.us and at the Department of Children and Family Services State Office located at 627 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. All citizen comments will be documented and included in the submission of the Substantial Amendment to HUD. Submit comments to DCFS Attention: Winona Connor, 627 North 4th Street, 3-308-15 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70815

Matching Resources

The State will require all sub grantees responding to the RFP to provide proof of matching resources in their RFP responses. The ESG program requires a dollar for dollar match and each application must contain a Certification of Matching Funds. All grantees must supplement the ESG funds with equal amounts of other funds or in-kind support from non-ESG sources. Matching funds or in-kind support must be provided after the date of the grant award to the recipient and within the ESG contract period. The recipient may not include funds used to match any previous Emergency Shelter Grant or any funds used to match any other federal program.

Proposed Activities

The State of Louisiana anticipates using 2011 second round ESG funds for Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing, and administrative activities. These activities will be targeted to households whose income is 0-30% of Area Median Family Income and to individuals and families that are in the following "at risk" homeless categories: Chronically homeless, homeless youth, homeless families and Persons exiting institutions. The State of Louisiana anticipates serving both, persons who meet the definition of homeless and "at risk" of homelessness. The State of Louisiana estimates 2011 ESG will serve a total of 500 individuals.

The table below is an estimate of the distribution for the 2011 second allocation ESG funds will be allocated to the eligible activities. The State of Louisiana anticipates that the final amounts budgeted, once 2011 allocation ESG contracts are executed, will be different than the proposed allocations indicated in the following table. The State of Louisiana will share administrative funds with all sub recipients.

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
Homeless Prevention Financial Assistance	\$127,167.00
Homeless Prevention Housing Relocation	\$54,500.00
Rapid Re-Housing Financial Assistance	\$495,456.00
Rapid Re-Housing Housing Relocation	\$148,636.00
Administrative Cost	\$66,953.00
Total	\$892,713.00

The State of Louisiana will emphasize objectives by prioritizing applicants whose projects propose to achieve the following outcomes: exiting to permanent housing destination, diverting shelter enrollments, receiving case management, maintaining permanent housing, persons with higher incomes at program exit, persons with more non-cash benefits at program exit, and increased employment rates upon service exits.

ESG funds which will be received for second round FY 2011 will be awarded within 90 days of receipt of the HUD grant agreement. The State ESG contracts for second round FY 2011 funds are anticipated to begin on September 1, 2012, and will end August 31, 2013. However, the contract period will depend upon the date that the HUD grant agreement is executed. Any unexpended funds will be re-distributed in the following ESG program year in separate contracts.

Funding Priorities

The State of Louisiana, in consultation with the local CoC, and homeless service providers will utilize the additional Emergency Solutions Grant funding allocations to target homeless youth, homeless families, and person exiting from institutions such as hospitals, prisons and jails who meet the new ESG definitions. The funding priority will focus on Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing activities based on the HPRP program.

Written Standards

The State is working to develop the written standards for this program. In the development of the standards the state will consult with the local CoC's for input. The allocation for the

Emergency Solutions portion of FY2011 will follow the written policies and procedures similar to those established during the utilization of the HPRP funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as well as new HUD definitions and guidelines.

The written standards will be reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with HUD regulations and to improve the delivery of services.

The State of Louisiana will require sub-grantees to establish written standards that include:

A. Standard policies and procedures for evaluating individuals' and families' eligibility for assistance under Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

B. Policies and procedures for coordination among emergency shelter providers, essential service providers, homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance providers, other homeless assistance providers and mainstream service and housing providers.

C. Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing eligibility of individuals and families to receive homelessness prevention assistance and eligibility of families and individuals to receive rapid re-housing assistance.

D. Standards for determining the shared cost of rent and utilities that each program participant must pay, if any, while receiving homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing assistance.

E. Standards for determining how long a particular program participant will be provided with rental assistance, and whether and how the amount of that assistance will be adjusted over time.

F. Standards for determining the; type, amount and duration of housing stabilization and/or relocation services to provide a program participant, include the limits, if any, on the homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing assistance that each program participant may receive such as:

1. The maximum amount of assistance.
2. The maximum number of months the program participant receives assistance.
3. The maximum number of times the program participant may receive assistance

Process for Sub-Awards

Within 30 days (after HUD has approved the Substantial Amendment) the State of Louisiana will issue a Request for Proposals to select a maximum of five agencies for the utilization of the second ESG allocation. The agreement will include all of the pertinent information contained in the new ESG guidelines and regulations, the definitions, type of services and target population to be served with the funds.

Homeless Participation Requirement

N/A for States

Performance Standards

The performance standards set for evaluating the ESG program activities will be based on the HEARTH Act standards. The standards include the following:

- Length of stay (reducing the time people are homeless)
- Targeting those that need the assistance the most
- Reducing the number of people living on the street or in shelters
- Reducing the participants housing barriers or housing stability risk

Monitoring

The State of Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services staff will provide oversight for monitoring and implementation of the new ESG funds. Monitoring will include: assurance of compliance with new ESG definitions, fiscal integrity, accounting of utilization of funds as required by HUD, and entry of data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The specific goals and objectives of the ESG Program and grant agreements under this Program entail funding of grant costs for implementation of ESGP eligible activities related to rapid re-housing, homeless prevention, housing stabilization, data collection and administrative cost during the specified grant period. The methods that will be utilized to measure and determine contract performance include: review of contract expenditures relative to approved budget categories, on site monitoring evaluations, review of data submitted in grantee performance reports as compared to proposed contract outcomes/accomplishments and intended beneficiaries.

To meet the requirements outlined for the use of ESG funds, technical assistance and trainings will be provided to grantees and sub-grantees to ensure compliance with the ESG guidelines, regulations, and ensure program performance is met.

The State of Louisiana will require and ensure that all sub-grantees funded adhere to the rules outlined in the Federal Register/Vol. 76. No. 233 and any and all subsequent updates as it applies to "At Risk of Homelessness" under section 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Act. The state will require all applicants to clearly identify the criteria's and characteristics to be used to identify the "at risk of homelessness " populations they will serve as described under the Definitions (Section 567.2).

Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System

The state will encourage each CoC to implement a centralized intake approach for serving the community. There are two metropolitan communities that have implemented a centralized intake system. Other communities are developing a centralized approach to servicing clients.

<u>1 Detailed Budget Table</u>					
<u>First Allocation</u>	<u>\$1,587,045.00</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>			
<u>Second Allocation</u>	<u>\$892,713.00</u>	Grants/Emergency Solutions Grants Program Allocations			
<u>Grant Amount</u>	<u>\$2,497,758.00</u>				
<u>Total Administration</u>	<u>\$187,331.85</u>				
		<u>First Allocation</u>		<u>Second Allocation</u>	<u>Total Fiscal Year 2011</u>
	<u>Eligible Activities</u>	<u>Activity Amount</u>	<u>Unfunded Activity Amount</u>	<u>Activity Amount</u>	<u>Activity Amount</u>
<u>Emergency Shelter Grants Program</u>	<u>Homeless Assistance</u>	<u>\$1,305,944.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>		<u>\$1,305,944.00</u>
	<u>Rehab/Conversion</u>				<u>\$0.00</u>
	<u>Operations</u>	<u>\$1,074,085.00</u>			<u>\$1,074,085.00</u>
	<u>Essential Services</u>	<u>\$231,859.00</u>			<u>\$231,859.00</u>
	<u>Homelessness Prevention</u>	<u>\$217,986.00</u>			<u>\$217,986.00</u>
	<u>Administration</u>	<u>\$63,115.00</u>			<u>\$63,115.00</u>
	<u>Emergency Shelter Grants Subtotal</u>	<u>\$1,587,045.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>		<u>\$1,587,045.00</u>
<u>Emergency Solutions Grants Program</u>	<u>Emergency Shelter**</u>			<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	<u>Renovation**</u>			<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	<u>Operation**</u>			<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	<u>Essential Service**</u>			<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	<u>URA Assistance**</u>			<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	<u>Street Outreach - Essential Services**</u>			<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	<u>HMIS</u>				<u>\$0.00</u>
	<u>Rapid Re-housing</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$644,093.00</u>	<u>\$644,093.00</u>
	<u>Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services</u>			<u>\$148,636.00</u>	<u>\$148,636.00</u>
	<u>Tenant-Based Rental Assistance</u>			<u>\$495,456.00</u>	<u>\$495,456.00</u>
	<u>Project-Based Rental Assistance</u>				<u>\$0.00</u>
	<u>Homelessness Prevention</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$181,667.00</u>	<u>\$181,667.00</u>
	<u>Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services</u>			<u>\$54,500.00</u>	<u>\$54,500.00</u>
	<u>Tenant-Based Rental Assistance</u>			<u>\$127,167.00</u>	<u>\$127,167.00</u>
<u>Project-Based Rental Assistance</u>				<u>\$0.00</u>	
<u>Administration</u>			<u>\$66,953.00</u>	<u>\$66,953.00</u>	
	<u>Emergency Solutions Grants Subtotal</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$892,713.00</u>	<u>\$892,713.00</u>
			<u>Total Grant Amount:</u>		<u>\$2,497,758.00</u>

**Allowable only if the amount obligated for homeless assistance activities using funds from the first allocation is less than the expenditure limit for emergency shelter and street outreach activities (see Section III.B. of this Notice).