



COVID-19

Homeless System Response

Eligible ESG Program Costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness

Individuals experiencing homelessness are at greater risk of exposure to a variety of infectious diseases including influenza and coronavirus. Taking effective sanitation measures can reduce the spread of infectious disease for people who are unsheltered or living in emergency shelters. Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program recipients may use annual ESG and ESG Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (ESG-CV) funds for street outreach and emergency shelter essential services, as well as related supplies needed to reduce the spread of infectious disease in their projects. Maintaining a sanitary shelter environment will help to keep staff and participants healthy. Listed below are supplies and equipment that are eligible shelter operations costs, which can be effective in limiting the spread of disease.

Planning Considerations

ESG Program Subrecipients: If your shelter or outreach project needs additional supplies or staffing that will impact your approved budget, please check with your ESG recipient (i.e., state, city, or county) on how to initiate a budget modification.

ESG Program Recipients:

- The emergency shelter/street outreach cap is waived for all ESG-CV funds as well as annual ESG funds that are documented as being used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
- To make any budget changes:
 - Amend your Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan to:
 - Change your allocation priorities;
 - Carry out an activity not previously described in your plan; or
 - Change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity.
 - Check your citizen participation plan to determine if a budget change constitutes a substantial amendment.
 - ESG-CV: Consultation and citizen participation requirements are waived for ESG-CV funding; however, recipients must publish how they will use their allocation on their website or other electronic media.
 - Annual ESG: The public comment period for amendments related to annual ESG grants is reduced from a 30-day minimum to a 5-day minimum. This waiver is applicable until the end of the recipients' 2020 program year.
 - Contact your local U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) field office or submit a question on the HUD Exchange Ask A Question portal for additional assistance

Emergency Shelter and Temporary Shelter—Shelter Operations:	
Supplies	Cleaning supplies such as bleach, disinfectant wipes, scrubbers, and mops.
	Protective equipment such as face masks and shields, disposable gloves, and sneeze guards for staff and program participants.
	Bed linens, towels, hand sanitizer, soap, and tissue packets.
	Individually boxed meals and bottled water.
Furnishings	Cots and room dividers.
Equipment	Washers, dryers, portable handwashing stations, portable showers, car or van purchase for transporting participants, and ventilation systems (e.g., high-efficiency particulate air [HEPA] filters and air purifiers).
Outpatient health services*	Medication, emergency medical services, medication and follow-up services, and coordinating or providing medical treatment. <i>*Services must be provided by licensed medical professionals and otherwise inaccessible or unavailable within the community.</i>
Transportation	Train or bus tokens, taxi or rideshare for program participant travel to and from medical care, and car or van purchase for transporting participants or staff serving program participants.
Street Outreach	
Engagement	Addressing urgent physical needs such as portable bathrooms, portable handwashing stations, portable showers, blankets, boxed meals, water, and personal protective equipment (e.g., hand sanitizer, soap, tissue packets, face masks and shields, disposable gloves, sneeze guards).
Case management	Providing referrals to medical care and coordinating and arranging the delivery of needed services.
Emergency health services*	Medication, emergency medical services, medication and follow-up services, and coordinating or providing medical treatment. <i>*Services must be provided by licensed medical professionals operating in community-based settings and otherwise inaccessible or unavailable within the community.</i>
Transportation	Train or bus tokens, taxi or rideshare for program participants' travel to and from medical care, and car or van purchase for transporting participants or staff serving program participants.
Expanded Staffing and Training	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring additional staff to support infectious disease preparedness. • Providing incentives to volunteers who have been and are currently helping to provide necessary street outreach, emergency shelter, and essential services during the coronavirus outbreak. • Providing training on infectious disease prevention and mitigation for staff working directly to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among emergency shelter participants and individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. • Providing hazard pay for recipient and subrecipient staff working directly to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among emergency shelter participants and individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. 	