



FT. WORTH/ ARLINGTON/ TARRANT COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE TX-601
TDHCA 2020 ESG-CV PROGRAM
LOCAL COMPETITION: NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 8, 2020 at 11:59 pm (CST)
FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$1,014,540
MAXIMUM GRANT: Not to exceed agency’s annual budget

PROJECT STARTUP: August 2020 (Tentative - Determined by TDHCA)
GRANT TERMINATION: July 31, 2021
GRANT SERVICE AREA: Tarrant and Parker Counties, Texas

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Introduction

At the end of March 2020, the U.S. Congress approved emergency funding to assist local governments and community residents to respond to economic and other impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic, through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act included supplemental allocations of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) program funds for state and local governments. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) was allocated \$33,254,679 in ESG-CV funds. The TX-601 CoC (Fort Worth/Arlington/Tarrant County) will receive approximately \$1,014,540 to distribute locally. Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (TCHC), TX-601's lead agency, has applied and been selected to host a local competition and make funding recommendations to TDHCA. Applicants selected for funding will execute contracts directly with TDHCA. Contracts will end on July 31, 2021.

TCHC is inviting eligible entities to submit requests for ESG-CV funds through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). **Eligible entities include private nonprofit organizations and general-purpose local governments.**

These funds are made available specifically to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. **Funds will be made available for the following ESG eligible activities:**

- **Emergency Shelter, focused on housing assessment**
- **Street Outreach, focused on housing assessment**
- **Rapid Rehousing**

Proposals addressing other activities or service types will not be eligible to receive funding under this NOFA.

According to 24 CFR 576.100(b)(1), ESG-CV funds are not subject to the spending cap on emergency shelter and outreach, up to 10 percent of ESG-CV funds may be used for administrative costs, and the ESG-CV funds are exempt from the ESG match requirements.

- Note: TDHCA will divide the 10% total administrative cost between TDHCA and subrecipient, so project applicants can request up to 5% of total project cost for administrative costs in the budget proposal.

Program Requirements

Subrecipients must have active engagement in the CoC to receive funding. Subrecipients must use ETO, or comparable HMIS database (for domestic violence providers), attend trainings to accurately enter data, and participate in the CoC's Coordinated Assessment System (CAS).

An agency may be ineligible to apply for the following reasons: No established business formation (per Secretary of State of Texas), lack of business financial documents (i.e. checking account, financial statements), no active board of directors or governing oversight body, limited organizational capacity, lack of documented programs/services being provided.

Scope of Services

Proposals must address one or more of the following three ESG eligible activity descriptions below. Activities not included below will not be eligible to receive funding under this NOFA.



Emergency Shelter With a Focus on Housing Assessment

Use funds to hire staff to assess, arrange, coordinate, and connect clients experiencing homelessness to appropriate interventions and services, such as permanent housing programs, employment services and other appropriate interventions. As our community considers how services will change because of COVID-19, applicants should consider including transportation costs associated with locating housing and other supportive services if/when staff are not able to directly provide this service due to social distancing.

Street Outreach With a Focus on Housing Assessment

Use funds to provide essential services related to reaching out to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, and/or critical services. Costs can include engagement, case management, transportation, and services for special populations.

Rapid Rehousing

Use funds to provide short and/or medium-term rental assistance to individuals or families experiencing homelessness to help them move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Costs can include rental assistance, rental arrears, other financial assistance (rental application fees, security/utility deposits, etc.), housing search and placement services, case management, and landlord tenant mediation. Programs are required to use the CoC's Coordinated Assessment System for housing referrals, which will prioritize individuals most vulnerable to COVID-19 (individuals age 65+ or who have underlying health conditions).

Submission of Proposals

All applications must be submitted through the ZoomGrants online software, located at <http://www.zoomgrants.com>. To request access to the ZoomGrants application, please email TCHC's CoC Planning Coordinator, Kathryn Welch, at kathryn@ahomewithhope.org.

Applications must be submitted in ZoomGrants no later than Monday, June 8 at 11:59 PM CST.

Application Contents

To receive full consideration for funding, please complete the ZoomGrants application and upload the following items in the ZoomGrants software by the deadline:

- ESG CARES Application Worksheet (Attached)
 - All 3 tabs must be completed
- Narrative Questions (Attached)
- Attachment A: ESG CARES Certifications (Attached)
- Attachment B: Previous Participation Form (Attached)
- Attachment C: Local Government Approval (Emergency Shelter Only) (Attached)
- Attachment D: Audit Certification Form (Attached)
- Written Standards for ESG per 24 CFR 576.400 (Applicant Provides)
- Termination Policy for ESG per 24 CFR 576.402 (Applicant Provides)
 - Must include both the termination process and written notice to program participants
- Authority to Enter Into Contract (Applicant Provides)
 - Must be dated within 12 months of application, list authorization to submit application, and list title of person authorized to represent the organization with signature authority to execute the contract.



The following forms will not be evaluated during the competition for applicant selection; However, they will have to be provided to TDHCA before contract execution:

- Direct Deposit
- Texas Identification Number
- Information Security and Privacy Agreement
- Environmental Clearance for Units of Local Government

Agency staff must be available to discuss proposals through virtual meetings/phone calls with Tarrant County Homeless Coalition staff, if requested, during application evaluation process.

Evaluation Process/Timeline

Funding decisions will be made by the CoC Allocations Committee. The Allocations Committee will evaluate applications based on completeness of application, alignment with CoC funding recommendations and priorities, program’s strategy to meet the needs of individuals most at risk of COVID-19, and measures proposed to help prevent/mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

TCHC will submit the Allocations Committee’s funding recommendations to TDHCA. The TDHCA Board will review and amend their One Year Action Plan with the ESG-CV funding updates. Once HUD approves TDHCA’s One Year Action Plan amendments, TDHCA will begin contract execution with subrecipients. TDHCA is currently estimating HUD approval by end of July 2020, but this is subject to change. The table below shows the overall competition schedule.

| Action/ Deadline/ Event | Date |
|--|--------------------|
| Local Competition Opens – TCHC sends full NOFA to community and opens the local competition | May 26, 2020 |
| Local Competition Closes – All applications due to TCHC by this date at 11:59 PM CST | June 8, 2020 |
| Online Training for Allocations Committee/Application Handoff – TCHC will conduct brief training on how to review and score applications; Allocations members should send preliminary scores to TCHC before June 15 Allocations Meeting | June 9, 2020 |
| TCHC’s Allocations Committee meets to finalize funding decisions – Discuss scores and finalize which agencies will receive funding and at what amount | June 15, 2020 |
| TCHC submits funding recommendations to TDHCA | June 16, 2020 |
| TDHCA presents recommendations to TDHCA Board | June 25, 2020 |
| HUD Approval – HUD approves TDHCA’s Annual Action Plan amendments and TDHCA can begin contract execution with subrecipients | **End of July 2020 |

**Tentative Date; Subject to Change

Additional Information

The complete program regulations for Federal ESG funds can be found at the following links:

- ESG regulations are contained within 24 CFR 576, which can be found at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CFR-2018-title24-vol3/CFR-2018-title24-vol3-part576>



- Additional information about the ESG program can be found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/esg>

The majority of ESG regulations remain the same for the ESG-CV funding, but there are a few differences. Below is a table showing the differences in regulation for ESG CARES Act funding versus ESG Annual Allocations.

| ESG CARES Act | ESG Annual Allocation |
|---|---|
| Income limit of 50% Area Median Income to receive or continue to receive homelessness prevention, or to continue receiving rapid re-housing assistance. | Income limit of 30% Area Median Income to receive or continue to receive homelessness prevention, or to continue receiving rapid re-housing assistance. |
| No cap on the use of ESG CARES funds for emergency shelter and street outreach. | Cap of 60% for emergency shelter and street outreach with ESG funding. |
| No match requirement. | 100% match requirement. |
| Pre-contracting costs will be allowed from the first COVID-19 response, which in Texas is March 13, 2020, with the state-declared disaster, though certain costs earlier than March 13 th may be eligible if staff approved. | Pre-contracting costs are only allowed to the date for which HUD signed the ESG grant agreement with the Department. |
| Environmental and habitability reviews for temporary shelters are not required. | Environmental clearance and habitability reviews need to be conducted before any funds are expended on temporary shelters |
| Administrative percentage is 10%, distributed between the recipient (the Department) and ESG Subrecipients. | Administrative percentage is 7.5%, distributed between the recipient (the Department) and ESG Subrecipients |

For Questions Regarding the Application Process, Contact:

Kathryn Welch

TCHC CoC Planning Coordinator

Kathryn@ahomewithhope.org