2019 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

OVERVIEW WEBINAR
APRIL 18, 2019
Notice of Funding Availability

• Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) is seeking eligible applicants **committed to ending homelessness** to administer projects funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. (24 CFR 576)

• On April 11, 2019, KHC issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) outlining the application process and funding priorities for the allocation of 2019 ESG funds.

• The 2019 ESG NOFA and other important documents and links are available on the KHC website (kyhousing.org) under Specialized Housing, **Emergency Solutions Grant**.
Notice of Funding Availability

- This competitive application round is for ESG Program Years 2019 and 2020.
- Projects awarded funding through this current funding opportunity will be eligible for renewal in 2020 so long as the project meets minimum threshold requirements and funds are available.
- The next competitive application round is anticipated to occur in 2021.
Eligible Components

Applicants may request funds for one or more of the five eligible ESG Program Components

• Street Outreach (SO)

• Emergency Shelter (ES)
  - Essential Services for Persons in Shelters
  - Renovation (including major rehab and conversion)
  - Shelter Operations

• Homelessness Prevention (PREV)

• Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

• Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS)

* Up to 3.75% of the total funds requested by an applicant for one or more of the components above may be used for eligible Administration (ADMIN) activities.
Eligible Applicants

• Units of Local Government
• Private Non-Profit Organizations

Balance of State ESG resources are not eligible to be used for projects or activities located in Fayette (Lexington) or Jefferson (Louisville) counties.

Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply, but must provide all ESG-funded activities in a manner that is free from religious influence.

Shelters that are not open year-round are not eligible to apply for ESG funding (e.g., seasonal shelters that operate only during the winter months)
Universal Funding Application

- Applications must be completed and submitted in KHC’s Universal Funding Application (UFA) System.

  [https://wapps.kyhousing.org/UFA/User/Login](https://wapps.kyhousing.org/UFA/User/Login)

- The name of the funding round in the UFA is “2019 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Application”, and is available under the “Specialized Funding” application type/tab.

- For step-by-step instructions, start with the FAQ section.

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Note: System maintenance scheduled on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 09:30 PM.
Your Application Name

After clicking “Create New Application”, please **include the name of your organization** in your “Application Name”

Suggested Application Name: [Agency Name] 2019 Emergency Solutions Grant Application

To edit the name of your application if it doesn’t include organization name:

1. Enter new application name, then click “Rename Application”
Important Dates

KHC Capacity Scorecard Submission Deadline

Thursday, April 25, 2019
11:59 p.m. ET

All applicants must complete a KHC Capacity Scorecard, which includes a Fair Housing Section, and click “SUBMIT” by the deadline above in order to be considered for funding.

On April 25, KHC staff will not be available to assist with submission problems after 5 p.m. ET, so don’t wait until the last minute to submit OR do so at your own risk!
Important Dates (continued)

**Application Submission Deadline**

Monday, May 13, 2019
11:59 p.m. ET

On May 13, KHC staff will not be available to assist with submission problems after 5 p.m. ET, so don’t wait until the last minute to submit OR do so at your own risk!
Policy Priorities

Home, Together: Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness

Vision:
“...every community must have a **systemic response** in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible; or if it can’t be prevented, it is **RARE**, **BRIEF**, and **NON-RECURRING**.

That means that every community must have the capacity to:

- **Quickly identify** and engage people at risk and experiencing homelessness.
- Intervene to **prevent** people from losing their housing and **divert** people from entering the homelessness response system.
- Provide people with **immediate access to shelter** and crisis services **without barriers** to entry if homelessness does occur.
- **Quickly connect** people experiencing homelessness to **housing assistance** and services tailored to their unique needs and strengths to help them achieve and maintain stable housing.
Policy Priorities

• Coordinated Entry Utilization

• Housing-Focused Project and System Design

• Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness
  - Increase provision of Street Outreach
  - Increase availability of Low-Barrier Shelter

• Reducing Homelessness Among Individuals

• Expanding the Availability and Flexibility of RRH

• Reducing Returns to Homelessness by Connecting People to Employment

• System Performance Measures
Housing-Focused

• The goal is to end the person’s homelessness!

• The focus must be on quickly connecting people experiencing homelessness and housing instability to permanent housing and working (again and again if needed) to keep them housed.

• Staff engagement, the services offered, and project design are all oriented towards finding, obtaining, and maintaining permanent solutions to the person’s homelessness.
Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness

• Increase provision of Street Outreach

• Increase availability of Low-Barrier Shelter
  - No unnecessary requirements for who can access the shelter (e.g., blanket criminal background checks, having income, sobriety)
  - Reduce programmatic requirements of staying in the shelter (e.g., participation in services).
  - Shelters work to screen people “in”, not “out”.
  - Shelters work to keep the person in shelter while a permanent housing solution is found, not setting up so many rules that people simply return to being unsheltered.
  - Low-barrier does not mean “no-barrier”, but any policies and “rules” should be carefully considered and not arbitrary.
Reducing Individual Homelessness

• Of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2018 K-Count across the KY BoS CoC, 88% percent were individuals, 67% were men.

• When designing proposed projects, applicants should make every effort to be flexible as possible to serve households regardless of composition or gender.

• To the maximum extent possible, ESG-funded projects should serve households with and without children as well as all genders.
RRH Availability and Flexibility

• Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide RRH assistance in as many counties as possible, ideally 3 or more.

• The type and amount of RRH assistance should be dependent on the person’s needs, not a cookie-cutter package of assistance that all people receive.

• All RRH projects must use a Housing-First approach.

• All RRH projects must incorporate the National Alliance on Ending Homelessness (NAEH) RRH Core Components into program design.
Reducing Returns by Connecting to Employment

• Ending homelessness means people do not return to homelessness after leaving it.

• Helping people increase their income, especially through employment when possible, is an excellent way help people maintain housing.

• Applicants are expected to incorporate deliberate and meaningful connections with employment opportunities.
New This Year: RRH Requirements

- All RRH projects **must utilize a low-barrier, Housing First approach.**

- All RRH projects, including those only providing security deposits, utility deposits, and/or last month’s rent, **must provide, at a minimum, Housing Search and Placement**—§576.105(b)(1) and **Housing Stability Case Management**—§576.105(b)(2) activities.

- These activities can be funded with ESG funds, through Match contributions, or provided through other sources.

Continued...
New This Year: RRH Requirements

- RRH projects that only provides security deposits, utility deposits, and/or last month’s rent **must** provide Housing Stability Case Management for at least **90 days** from the time the participant moves into housing **OR** ensure appropriate housing stability case management is being provided by another party.

- A new ESG Toolkit form will be created to monitor compliance with this requirement.
New This Year: RRH Requirements

• All RRH grantees are expected to incorporate the National Alliance on Ending Homelessness (NAEH) RRH Core Components into their program design:

  ➢ Housing Identification
  ➢ Rent and Move-In Assistance
  ➢ Case Management
New This Year: Funding Cap

• No applicant may request more than $150,000 per application unless it meets certain criteria.

• An applicant proposing to serve 3 or more counties with Rapid Rehousing (RRH) rental assistance (§576.106) may request up to $175,000, but at least 50% of the requested funds must be used for RRH eligible activities.
New This Year:

RRH Requests Considered Separately

• KHC will consider requests for RRH separate from an applicant’s request for other components.

• Applicants will still complete one application, but the RRH request will be scored and considered separately from the rest of the application.

• KHC intends to award a minimum of $1 million for RRH projects but reserves the right to award more or less than this amount depending on the applications received and need.
New This Year: Grant Funds Must Be Spent in 18 Months or Less

• All grant funds awarded through this Federal Fiscal Year 2019 allocation must be expended by 12/31/20.

• The grant period will be 7/1/19 to 12/31/20.

• Applicants are expected to request only the amount of funds they can realistically spend in 18 months or less.
2019 Allocation (competitive application)

- 18 months

2020 Allocation (renewal)

- 18 months

2021 Allocation starts 7/1/21 through competitive application process
What’s Next?

• Talk to your partners in your Coordinated Entry Local Prioritization Community (LPC) to discuss needs in your area!

• Make strategic decisions together!

• ESG Sample Scoresheets coming very soon.

• 2019 K-Count data coming very soon, too.
Questions?

Contact KHC’s Housing Contract Administration (HCA) Help Desk:  [https://kyhmis.zendesk.com/hc/en-us](https://kyhmis.zendesk.com/hc/en-us)

To submit a question, click “Submit a Request” on the right hand side of the Help Desk homepage.

Phone: 502-564-7630 ext. 446