



Housing Contract Administration

KENTUCKY BALANCE OF STATE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM (ESG) 2026/2027 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Submission Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2026, 5:00 p.m. ET

NOTE: This competitive application round is for ESG Program Years 2026 and 2027 only. The next competitive application round is anticipated to be held in the spring of 2028.

Kentucky Housing Corporation
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Frankfort, KY 40601

(Revised 5/4/2026 to correct State Clearinghouse link on pages 15 and 16)

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Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Purpose

Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), seeks eligible applicants committed to ending homelessness to administer low-barrier, housing-focused Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) projects across the Kentucky Balance of State Continuum of Care (KY BoS CoC).

The ESG Program is designed to help communities build homelessness response systems that work to make homelessness **rare, brief, and non-recurring with emphasis on helping people quickly regain permanent housing stability.**

ESG funds may be used for the rehabilitation or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelter; the payment of certain expenses related to operating emergency shelters; essential services related to emergency shelters; street outreach for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness; homelessness prevention; rapid rehousing, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); and administrative activities.

The [ESG Interim Rule \(24 CFR Part 576\)](#) aligns the ESG program with the Continuum of Care (CoC) program (24 CFR Part 578) to facilitate coordination and foster efficient use of resources to prevent and end homelessness. Specifically, **implementation of the ESG program is required to be done in consultation and collaboration with the Participating Jurisdiction's (PJ) CoC planning entity, which in the case of this application and ESG program, is the KY BoS CoC.** The KY BoS CoC is responsible for the homeless response system, including how federal resources are utilized for all counties in Kentucky except Jefferson and Fayette, which have their own CoC planning bodies. Fayette and Jefferson counties receive direct ESG allocations from HUD and operate separate allocation methods from this KHC-administered process for KY BoS CoC counties. The KY BoS CoC is comprised of housing and homeless service providers, advocates, and other stakeholders involved in the homeless response system. KHC serves as the lead agency for both the CoC and ESG programs and facilitates the collaboration between the two.

This ESG NOFA outlines KHC's policy and funding priorities and the application process applicants must follow to be considered for funding through this competitive application round. **Applicants should carefully read this NOFA in its entirety BEFORE completing an application.**

If funded, ESG projects will be governed by the cumulative information contained in this NOFA, all federal and state statutes and regulations, KHC's ESG Program Policies, KHC's 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan, the 2026 and 2027 Action Plans and policies and procedures adopted by the KY BoS CoC.

NOTE: *KHC reserves the right to revise these guidelines as necessary.*

Deadlines and Pertinent Dates

- **Tuesday, April 8, 2026**– Application Opens
- **Tuesday, April 14, 2026**– Application Overview Webinar (Optional), 10:00a.m., ET. [Registration required.](#)
- **Friday, May 15, 2026** – Application Closes 5:00 p.m., ET.

Funding Sources Available

Funding Source:	Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	CFDA #
Approximate Amount Available:	\$2,684,471	14.231

Eligible Program Components and Activities

Applicants may request funding for any eligible ESG program component and activity under [Subpart B of the ESG Interim Rule \(§§ 576.100 - 576.109\)](#). Program components and activities include:

- Street Outreach (SO) component
- Emergency Shelter (ES) component
- Homelessness Prevention (PREV) component
- Rapid Rehousing Assistance (RRH) component
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) component: An applicant may only request HMIS funds in conjunction with SO, ES, PREV, and/or RRH component(s).
- Administrative (Admin) activities: An applicant may also request funds for Admin activities in an amount not to exceed 3.75% of the total amount it requests for all other program components.

Applicants are required to read both the [ESG Interim Rule](#) and the [KHC ESG Policy Manual](#) and administer its ESG projects in a manner consistent with both.

Applicants are expected to strategize with partners in their respective **CoC Local Prioritization Communities (LPCs)** used for coordinated entry implementation to determine what configuration of resources are most needed in each LPC and propose program components that align with the identified need. LPC counties mirror those of [Kentucky's 15 Area Development Districts \(ADDs\)](#).

Maximum Funding Requests

No applicant may request more than \$150,000 per application.

An applicant may submit two applications per county if it operates more than one shelter in a county. The applicant must clearly justify why both shelter projects are needed in the same county. No applicant may submit more than two applications in total (i.e., two per county or one each for two counties). **If your agency is interested in submitting more than one application per county, you are strongly encouraged to contact KHC to discuss your plans prior to submitting an application.**

Victim Service Provider (VSP) Emergency Shelter Component Funding Requests

Under this 2026/2027 ESG NOFA, in order to best maximize limited ESG funds and strengthen the KY BoS homeless emergency shelter system, Victim Service Provider (VSP) **shelter** applicants may not request more than **\$100,000** in the Emergency Shelter (ES) Component. This VSP funding limit is only applicable to the ES Component. VSP applicants are still able to request the full \$150,000 maximum funding request so long as the Emergency Shelter request does not exceed \$100,000.

Match Requirement

Applicants must agree to match 100% of their award. The ESG program requires at least a dollar-for-dollar match. More information on match requirements can be found in section [576.201](#) of the ESG Interim Rule.

Eligible Applicants

All of the allocation will be made available to:

- Units of local government or
- Private nonprofit organizations

NOTE: Balance of State ESG resources are NOT eligible for projects or activities located in Jefferson or Fayette counties

Nonprofit organizations must be exempt from taxation under subtitle C of section 501(c), have an accounting system, a voluntary board, and practice nondiscrimination in the provision of assistance. Assistance may be provided to primarily religious organizations that agree to provide all eligible activities in a manner that is free from religious influences.

NOTE: Temporary or seasonal shelters (e.g., shelters only open for certain months during the year) are not eligible to apply for ESG emergency shelter funding.

NOTE: The local entity that will ultimately administer the ESG project on a day-to-day basis must be directly involved in completing this application and knowledgeable about what the organization is proposing to do with ESG funding if awarded.

Allocation Plan

KHC will allocate PY 2026 and PY 2027 ESG funds through this competitive application process. Applicants awarded funding from HUD's PY 2026 ESG allocation to KHC will be eligible to receive 2027 ESG funds through a renewal process without a competitive application so long as minimum thresholds are met and funds are available in PY2027. The next competitive application round is expected to be held in the spring of 2028.

KHC will make every attempt to award limited resources as prudently as possible and will award those agencies with the greatest capacity to effectively administer the funds in accordance with the goal of building an effective homelessness response system. In general, the amount of funds awarded will depend on how well a particular application scores. KHC intends to fund projects based on project viability, applicant capacity, performance, community collaboration and program design. It is KHC's goal to achieve as much geographic distribution as possible, while ensuring that the strongest applications receive funding based on their total scores. KHC reserves the right to consider factors in addition to how an applicant scores such as the lack of similar resources available in an area when making funding determinations. KHC may elect to award funding to lower scoring projects to achieve this end. Furthermore, an applicant's previous or current administration of ESG funds, such as expenditure rates or compliance concerns, will also be considered. KHC reserves the right to limit the minimum award amount.

In case of a tie, the applicant with the highest rate-of-homelessness score in its service area will be ranked above the other project(s) with the same score. (Confirmed by 2026 K-Count data)

RRH Requests Considered Separately

KHC will consider requests for RRH separate from an applicant’s request for other program component funds. 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 for proposed services across the KY BoS CoC.

Grant Funds Expenditure Requirements

Grant Funds Must be Expended in 18 months

All grant funds awarded through this PY 2026 allocation must be expended by December 31, 2027. The grant period will be July 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027.

In the event the grantee is not able to expend the funds in 18 months, KHC reserves the right to recapture the funds and to determine the most effective process for redistribution at such time, which may include another competitive process, a proportional distribution, or another method deemed most judicious at the time.

Applicants are expected to request **only** the amount of funds they can realistically spend in 18 months or less. This will allow KHC to distribute funding to agencies around the KY BoS CoC in a more strategic manner that will allow people to have quicker access to assistance.

Alignment with Policy Priorities

ESG applicants are expected to design and administer their projects in a manner that achieves the shared vision and furthers the progress of the KY BoS CoC in its goal of building a low-barrier, housing-focused homelessness response system.

In addition, it is the expectation that ESG applicants provide flexible participant-driven services and project components that address the unique needs of those experiencing homelessness with the goal of promoting participant choice and resiliency in stable permanent housing.

ESG applicants should not view their project design as a “one size fits all” but rather focus on the unique needs that present at the Local Prioritization Community (LPC), local and participant level.

Coordinated Entry

24 CFR 576.400 (d): Once the Continuum of Care has developed a centralized assessment system or a coordinated assessment system in accordance with requirements to be established by HUD, each ESG-funded program or project within the Continuum of Care's area must use that assessment system.

As described in the [KY BoS CoC Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures](#), Coordinated Entry is defined as a process to coordinate program participant intake, assessment, and provision of referrals. It covers the geographic area, is easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing and services, is well advertised, and involves a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool. The KY BoS CoC has termed its Coordinated Entry System (CES) the Any Door Kentucky CES. Funded ESG projects are required to participate in the Any Door Kentucky CES in accordance with the KY BoS CoC Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures as it relates specific ESG Program components (e.g., SO, ES, RRH). All applicants are expected to thoroughly read these policies and procedures as well as design their projects in accordance with the outlined expectations of the KY BoS CoC.

Housing-Focused Project and System Design

- **Housing-Focused Principles** In every aspect of the work to end homelessness, the focus must remain on quickly connecting people experiencing homelessness and housing instability to permanent housing and working to keep them housed. This service delivery model is the core of the ESG program. It is important to note the housing-focused approach is not just limited to rapid rehousing. A housing-focused approach includes street outreach, emergency shelters, and prevention as well. This means that across all ESG components, staff engagement with people experiencing homelessness, the services offered, and project design are all oriented towards finding, obtaining, and maintaining permanent solutions to the person's homelessness. Projects should be housing-focused from first interaction with persons experiencing homelessness through the conclusion of the service or project assistance, and in some cases after the assistance has ended. In addition to being housing-focused, applicants are expected to implement projects that are low-barrier and quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing (remember emergency shelters can play a key role in this connection) without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements, or a minimum income threshold and to focus on keeping the household housed without service participation requirements.

Projects should be designed as low-barrier, meaning arbitrary policies and barriers to entry into a project should be removed. People seeking assistance should not be screened out or discouraged to participate because they have too little or no income, have an active or history of substance abuse, have a criminal record (with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions), or have a history of domestic violence (e.g. a survivor who does not have a protective order against her abuser, has or has had law enforcement involvement, etc.).

Once participants are enrolled in the project, projects should be designed in a way to keep people housed and to achieve permanent housing stability as quickly as possible. Therefore, projects should not terminate participants for the following reasons: failure to participate in supportive services, failure to make progress on a service plan; loss of or failure to improve

income; survivors having current or history of domestic violence; or any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project's geographic area. Further, projects should be versed in eviction prevention, landlord outreach and negotiation and tenancy management best practices to ensure participants are supported in their housing and are able to maintain housing.

Case management, though considered a supportive/essential service for budgeting purposes, CAN be required by a project when using a housing-focused model. It is expected that projects regularly and actively engage with participants, build rapport and provide housing-focused case management services. Projects should use evidenced-based techniques such as motivational interviewing and progressive engagement as well as other best practices to build successful case management relationships. Projects will be expected to document all case management attempts/sessions. While case management can be required by a project to ensure housing stability, a project having a zero-tolerance policy (e.g., missing one meeting with the case manager resulting in termination) will not be considered as using a housing-focused model. It is the responsibility of the project to ensure supportive services are offered to participants to assist with their housing stability, but participants must choose whether or not to participate.

Minimum Requirements for ESG-funded Prevention, RRH, and Street Outreach

All Prevention, RRH, and Street Outreach projects **must adhere to all aspects of a Housing-Focused model**. This explicitly means these projects **cannot** screen people out (i.e., not accept/enroll) people for having too little or no income, having an active or history of substance abuse, having a criminal record (with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions), or having a history of experiencing domestic violence (e.g., a survivor who does not have a protective order against her abuser, has or has had law enforcement involvement, etc.). Furthermore, these projects **cannot** require participation in supportive services (e.g., life skills, budgeting classes, or substance use recovery programming) or require sobriety as a condition of being served by the project. Projects may not terminate program participants for failure to participate in supportive services, failure to make progress on a service plan, loss of or failure to improve income; or for being a survivor having current or a history of domestic violence.

- **Low-Barrier Shelter:** In some communities, shelter may not be available at all. In others, the shelters that do exist are high-barrier or the populations they serve do not match the characteristics or the needs of the people who are unsheltered. KHC expects shelters funded with ESG to operate, to the greatest extent possible, using a housing-focused approach that includes low-barrier access to shelter. This low-barrier orientation means shelters do not have unnecessary requirements for who can access the shelter (e.g., blanket criminal background checks, having income, sobriety) and reduces programmatic requirements of staying in the shelter (e.g., participation in services). While “low-barrier” does not necessarily mean “no-barrier” (e.g., it may be appropriate for a shelter that serves households with children to not allow registered sex-offenders to stay), shelters should work to screen people “in”, not “out”. Being a low-barrier shelter means the shelter works 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. The National Alliance on Ending Homelessness has an entire [learning series](#) dedicated to making the shift to low-barrier shelter. Applicants are strongly encouraged to

evaluate their current policies and procedures for entry into the shelter and expectations of people staying in the shelter to eliminate any arbitrary requirements that do more to keep people out than actually helping them to resolve their homelessness.

Minimum Requirements for ESG-funded Emergency Shelters Relating to Low-Barrier/Housing-Focused Principles

At a minimum, emergency shelters funded through this application cannot require people seeking shelter assistance to have income. In addition, shelters cannot require participation in supportive services or programs (e.g., life skills, budgeting classes or financial savings programming) or completion of any other programs for a person to stay in the shelter. Shelters will be evaluated for application scoring purposes on the extent to which they further implement low-barrier and Housing First principles in addition to the requirements in this section.

Furthermore, shelters cannot require criminal background or warrant checks prior to shelter admission, with the exception of checking sex offender status if the shelter serves households with children.

Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness

- **Street Outreach:** Street outreach (SO) is a critical part of any successful homelessness response system, especially for reaching the most vulnerable people least likely to access shelter. Direct street outreach helps communities identify and assist people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and connect them with the KY BoS CoC Coordinated Entry System, emergency shelter, housing-focused services, and permanent housing. LPCs should consider gaps in street outreach services or lack of street outreach when applying for ESG funds through this competition. In recent years the KY BoS CoC has expanded its Street Outreach coverage through the Rural and Unsheltered Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (SNOFO) and the HOME-ARP program. ESG SO applicants will be expected to explain why existing resources, if any, are insufficient.

Reducing Homelessness Among Individuals

While the KY BoS CoC system must continue to be able to respond appropriately to homelessness for families with children, it must increase its capacity to end homelessness among individuals as well. Individuals experiencing homelessness continues to grow both in Kentucky and nationally. 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.

Expanding the Availability and Effectiveness of RRH

RRH programs rapidly connect families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services. RRH programs help families and individuals living on the streets or in emergency shelters solve the practical and immediate challenges to obtaining permanent housing while reducing the amount of time they experience homelessness, avoiding a near-term return to homelessness, and linking to community resources that enable them to achieve housing stability in the long-term.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide RRH assistance in as many counties as possible and to structure staffing and budgets in a manner that can support the NAEH core components of effective RRH. Applicants are expected to provide (or secure from a third party) flexible participant-driven services that address the unique needs of those experiencing homelessness with the goal of promoting participant choice and resiliency in the permanent housing resource (i.e. the RRH unit).

It is important to note that RRH rental assistance is meant to meet the presenting needs of the participant rather than the participant meeting the strict demands of the project. Some participants may need just a few months of rental assistance, while others will require longer more intensive rental assistance (up to 24 months) paired with housing-focused, housing stability case management services. RRH programs should not operate in a cookie cutter, one size fits all approach, (such as limiting program assistance for all clients to 6 or 12 months). Applicants should be evaluating participant need and income throughout participation in RRH to ensure housing stability can be met by the end of rental assistance. It is a recommended best practice that evaluation of need occurs periodically over a predetermined course of rental assistance, with first evaluation of participant need and income at 3 months and then every 3 months thereafter until housing stability is met (within the 24-month period). As participants increase their income, the amount of RRH assistance (e.g., amount of rental assistance paid through the ESG grant) can be reduced.

Rapid Rehousing Requirements

- All RRH projects must utilize a low-barrier, **housing-focused** approach (see page 7 of this NOFA for more information).
- **Duration of Rental Assistance.** RRH projects are not “One Size Fits All”. Individual programs **cannot** set universal, arbitrary limits of assistance such as limitations of duration of rental assistance less than the regulatory limit of 24 months for all households regardless of need (e.g., setting a cap of 3 months, 12 months, etc. for all households). Rather, the amount and duration of rental assistance should be based on the needs of each individual household and should be reassessed periodically to determine if additional assistance is needed.
- **Lease Requirements.** The lease agreement between the tenant and landlord must be for an initial term of 12 months. No 6-month leases will be allowable for RRH unless a waiver is provided by KHC to allow for extenuating circumstances.
- **Housing Stability Case Management Requirements.** All programs are required to offer at minimum monthly Housing Stability Case Management upon program entry. Service intensity

and frequency must be tailored to the needs of each household. Housing Stability Case Management must still be offered once financial rental assistance has ended. End of financial assistance (i.e., paying the rent from grant) does not equal program exit. Housing Stability Case Management services may not exceed 24 months during the period in which the participant is living in permanent housing.

- 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.
- RRH projects only providing 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.
- All RRH grantees are expected to incorporate the [National Alliance on Ending Homelessness \(NAEH\) RRH Core Components](#) into their program design, which includes Housing Identification, Rent and Move-In Assistance, and Case Management. Applicants should refer to the [NAEH Rapid Rehousing Toolkit](#) for detailed information on designing/redesigning and operating effective programs that incorporate these core components.

Reducing Returns to Homelessness by Connecting People to Employment and Non-Earned Income

While helping participants regain permanent housing is a fundamental component of a homelessness response system, helping people maintain housing stability is just as important. While people often have unique challenges that can make maintaining housing more difficult, having insufficient income is often a significant contributor. ESG-funded projects should increase efforts to connect participants to employment. Projects are expected to develop meaningful relationships with employment programs in their service areas and connect participants with these programs upon entry into the ESG project. In addition, projects should assist participants in securing non-earned income for which they may be eligible such as SSI or SSDI.

System Performance Measures

A major component of both the ESG and CoC Programs is a requirement for communities to measure their performance as a coordinated system, in addition to analyzing performance by specific projects. HUD is required to use system-level performance outcomes when awarding CoC funding each year (ESG-funded projects contribute to the system outcomes). HUD has established seven (7) measures for CoCs to track and report progress. Applications submitted through this competition will be scored based on their participant level outcomes and their plans to improve outcomes going forward.

Application Submission Requirements

Universal Funding Application System

Applicants are required to complete and submit the application using KHC's [Universal Funding Application](#) (UFA) system. Applicants needing assistance, including for how to register and create an application, should refer to the [FAQ](#) section within the UFA or contact the Housing Contract Administration (HCA) [Partner Agency Portal](#) (formerly the "Help Desk").

The title of the application to be completed within the UFA is **2026/2027 Emergency Solutions Grant Application**.

******REQUIRED APPLICATION NAME USED IN UFA******

When naming your application in the UFA system, applicants **MUST** use the following naming model incorporating the agency's name:

[Agency Name] 2026 ESG Application

Example: Butcher Hollow Homeless Coalition 2026 ESG Application

The application name you enter is seen by KHC when you submit the application, not just your organization when you are working in the UFA. It is very important that you include your agency's name in the title so that KHC can clearly distinguish it from others submitted. Using a name like "2026 ESG" or "ESG Application" is not acceptable.

KHC Capacity Scorecard

The KHC Capacity Scorecard (which includes a section relation to Fair Housing) is the first part of the application. While in previous competitions the KHC Capacity Scorecard had to be submitted at an earlier date than the final application submission deadline, this year the KHC Capacity Scorecard will be submitted at the same time as the full application.

To create consistency and equity, KHC utilizes a "Capacity Scorecard" for all program areas that have competitive applications or formula grant allocation process. The scorecard is used to determine the overall capacity of the Entity or Development Team member(s) that will administer the proposed project and/or program they are applying for. The scorecard is divided into three (3) sections:

1. Capacity Scorecard Threshold Requirement

The first section of the scorecard consists of minimum thresholds that must be achieved. If the Entity or Development Team member(s) answers "yes" to any of the Capacity Scorecard Threshold Requirements, the application may not be eligible for submission. All "yes" answers are required to provide an explanation as to circumstances of the infraction. KHC will review the response when determining whether the applicant may apply through this funding round.

Capacity Scorecard Threshold Requirements will be verified at both the submission of the application and reviewed again prior to funding award announcement. If the status of a Capacity

Scorecard Threshold Requirement changes prior to announcement of funding, the application may be disqualified. Depending on the circumstances, an Entity may be asked to correct the outstanding issue prior to a funding award.

2. Capacity Scorecard Self-Certification

The Capacity Scorecard Self-Certification section of the scorecard is a series of statements to which the applicant preparer must certify. This is a non-scoring section but will be used by KHC review staff to ensure there are no outstanding issues that could prevent the project from being awarded funds. There is a response section in the self-certification section that can be used to provide additional information to any of the self-certification questions. KHC review staff may request additional information for clarification purposes.

The Entity will need to complete the certification acknowledgement that states the responses to the self-certification statements are true and accurate, to the best of their knowledge. Falsification of these statements could result in a recapture of funds or suspensions/disbarment from KHC.

3. Capacity Scorecard Overall Performance

The Capacity Scorecard Overall Performance section is the part of the scorecard where KHC staff will indicate if a capacity deduction will be applied. Guidance on the type of infractions that KHC will consider for possible capacity deductions are listed in this section of the scorecard. Please note, the list is not all inclusive, but provides guidance as to what criteria is used to determine a potential capacity deduction. A capacity deduction can be determined at any time throughout the administration of a project/program and through the affordability/compliance period. The capacity deduction can apply to the Entity or any member of the Development Team.

Please note, it is not KHC's intention to issue capacity deductions on minor occurrences. A capacity deduction can occur if the Entity has repeated administrative issues or unresolved compliance finding for which corrections have been requested and not received. At the time a capacity deduction is issued, the agency or organization will receive a written notice from KHC explaining the reason for the capacity deduction and the amount of time the deduction will be applicable. KHC typically looks back 3 years, from the date of application submission, to determine capacity related issues.

KHC Capacity Scorecard deductions will be applied to the overall score for the Agency Experience and Capacity Section. For example, if the Agency Experience and Capacity Section of the application is worth a total of 25 points and a capacity deduction of -2 was determined, then the application will be docked 2 points and will receive 23 out of a total 25 possible points.

Analysis of Impediment to Fair Housing

Impediments to fair housing are outlined on pages 85-90 of the [2025-2029 Commonwealth of Kentucky Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing](#) available on the KHC website. Applicants must identify which of those impediments to fair housing their ESG project will address. In addition, applicants must address how the ESG project will reduce or eliminate impediments to fair housing.

If the ESG application does not identify which impediments to fair housing will be addressed and explain how the ESG project will reduce or eliminate these impediments, your application will not be reviewed.

General Application Guidance

This application is designed to obtain information for ESG funding selection. It is evaluated on the specifics of a proposal as it relates to each priority in the application point system.

Your application **must**:

- Include only responses to the ESG Application and required attachments. Any other information provided **will not** be reviewed for use in scoring the application.

In addition, applicants should provide responses in the following manner:

- When writing narrative responses, do not assume that the KHC application reviewer already knows your program based on previous knowledge or responses to questions earlier in the application, which populations you serve (e.g., victims of domestic violence only), or the requirements of 24 CFR 576 and other related policies and regulations. Make sure to write responses to each question as if the reviewer does not know anything about your program or your processes or has not read other responses throughout your application.
- Demonstrate to the reviewer your knowledge of ESG program definitions, requirements, policies and procedures as outlined in 24 CFR 576 and the [KHC Emergency Solutions Grant \(ESG\) Policy Manual](#) and ensure application responses are consistent with said policies. For example, even if your project does not typically serve persons who meet the definition of homeless in Category 4 of the “homeless” definition because people falling under this category are referred to a local Victim Service Provider who is able to serve them, you should still state that Category 4 is an eligible category to be served by your project. This ensures we know you understand the allowable criteria and are not omitting the category because you do not know the population is eligible to be served.
- In some cases, you may be asked to answer questions that are similar to questions asked in other sections of the application. Do not assume because you provided information in one section that the reviewer will use that information to score you on another question where you did not provide the information.
- Pay attention to the instructions listed in the application itself, especially when it tells you what you must include to receive maximum points. You might provide a lengthy response, but if you are not being responsive to the specific information requested, you will not receive full points.
- Use bullets and numbering the different parts of your answer to a specific question to correspond to any numbering provided in the question that tells you what is required to receive maximum points. For example, if a question says, “to receive maximum points your response must include 1) ..., 2) ..., and 3)”, then when writing your response, you should include the appropriate number your answer is responding to. For example, your response would look like this “1) The need for our project is xyz 2) We provide these services... 3) We plan to use ESG funds for these activities...”. This will help the application reviewer know you have attempted to

answer all required parts of the question and will help you ensure you have provided a complete response. Failure to respond to each part of a question will result in lost points.

- **Characters Limits.** For several of the questions requiring narrative responses, character limits have been established such as limiting responses to 2,000 characters with spaces included or 3,000 characters with spaces. Questions with characters limits are indicated with text such as the following at the end of the question: “(Limit 2,000 characters). It is recommended that you write responses first within a word processor such as Microsoft Word and then paste the response into the UFA once you have checked the number of characters with spaces included. Feel free to use abbreviations in your writing to conserve characters so long as the application reviewer can reasonably understand what is being communicated.
- Review the sample scoresheet available on KHC’s [ESG webpage](#) to fully understand the criteria used to score your projects and use that information to complete your responses.
- Fully review this NOFA for additional information on what is expected in your responses.
- On the scoresheet, when it says, “applicant described” or “applicant explained”, applicants will be scored on the extent to which a thorough explanation was provided, but also on the quality of the proposal. For example, when asked to describe your outreach plan, you might provide an extensive response, but you must be proposing a plan that is reasonable and well thought out for your specific project component to receive full points.

Required Attachments

- Proof of 501(C) Status (If not previously submitted and on file with KHC; not required for local government applicants)

The following attachments require current documentation dated no earlier than April 8, 2026:

- Certification of Local Approval (Applies only to private, nonprofit organizations ***applying for emergency shelter component*** funds. The subrecipient must obtain a certification of approval from the unit of general-purpose local government for the geographic area in which the emergency shelter activities are to be carried out. See 24 CFR §576.202 (Blank Certification of Local Approval Form is available on the [ESG page](#) of the KHC website)
- Signed copy of 2026/2027 ESG Certifications and Assurances (Blank Certifications and Assurances Form is available on the [ESG page](#) of the KHC website)
- Evidence of Submission to [Kentucky State Clearinghouse](#). (You will also be asked to provide your State Applicant Identifier Number in the application section with this attachment. More information about this requirement is included at the bottom of the next page).

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER):

- Copy(s) of all HMIS or HMIS-comparable database-generated Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for all ESG project components you currently have active in HMIS for which you are applying for again for the period **April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026**. **If you do not currently receive ESG funding, but use HMIS for a project (e.g., emergency shelter) you are now seeking funding for, please submit a CAPER for that project.**

*****IMPORTANT NOTE PERTAINING TO CAPER(S)*****

Please submit a separate CAPER for each ESG project component you have in HMIS or your comparable database you are requesting funding for in this application. In other words, if you are funded for ESG-ES and ESG-RRH, do not combine the projects into one CAPER. You must submit a CAPER for your ES project and another CAPER for your ESG-RRH project.

Please submit each CAPER in PDF format. [Instructions](#) for how to save the CAPER report generated out of KYHMIS as a PDF are available on the KHC HCA Partner Agency Portal.

- **Shelter Photographs:** Shelters must attach pictures of their facility for consideration in this competition. At minimum, pictures of a bedroom/dorm room, bathrooms, kitchen, shared/communal space.
- **Additional attachments** may be required depending on the project component for which you are submitting an application. Read the directions in the UFA application carefully (e.g., termination policies are required to be attached for certain program components).

The ESG CFDA Number is 14.231.

State Clearinghouse Review (Link updated 5/4/26)

To comply with Executive Order 12372, all applicants must complete the online Kentucky State Clearinghouse (e-Clearinghouse) review application. This e-Clearinghouse application is available on the Department for Local Government (DLG) new portal called DLG Portal:

<https://www.dlgportal.ky.gov/en-US/CP/>. This is a new webpage for the e-Clearinghouse and is different than what ESG applicants may have used in previous years. Full instructions are available [here](#). If you have any questions about this application, please contact DLG.ECH@ky.gov or call 502-573-2382.

Note: the State Clearinghouse application is not reviewed by KHC for scoring purposes. It is reviewed by the State for informational purposes only. For purposes of this KHC ESG application, proof of submission to the State Clearinghouse is required.

Application Review Process

Notice to Applicants

It is the applicant's responsibility to submit all required documentation to adequately support its application. Any material deficiency in the Application or omission from the mandatory submissions may result in an immediate rejection of the application. In addition, the Application must meet all eligibility requirements set forth in the guidelines. Any application which does not contain sufficient information to be reviewed will be rejected.

KHC may, at its discretion, request information from applicants to address and resolve issues identified during application review. The application will be reviewed and scored as submitted.

Conditional Approval Process

Funding recommendations are made by the application review team within KHC's Housing Contract Administration Department. The recommendations are based on application review as submitted by the applicant with possible minor scoring adjustments.

Staff recommendations are presented to KHC's Credit Committee for conditional project approval. Once conditional approval is received, applicants will be notified via email. Approved projects will receive a preliminary award letter contingent upon technical submission requirements. In order to be funded, the applicant will be required to comply with the terms and conditions. If a conditional funding commitment is cancelled, the applicant may reapply in the next competitive funding round. Execution of the ESG funding agreement will occur after the successful completion of the conditional commitment of funding and all terms and conditions are met.

Resources

If you have any questions, contact the Housing Contract Administration (HCA) [Partner Agency Portal](#).

Please find below some useful resources in developing your ESG project. Applicants should also refer to the ESG section of the HCA Partner Agency Portal for additional resources.

[KHC ESG Program Policy Manual](#)

[ESG Interim Rule \(24 CFR 576\)](#)

[NAEH Rapid Rehousing Core Components](#)

[NAEH Rapid Rehousing Toolkit \(Revised March 2022\)](#)

[NAEH Rapid Re-Housing Performance Benchmarks and Program Standards](#)

[NAEH Emergency Shelter Learning Series](#)

[Rapid Rehousing: ESG vs. CoC](#)