

# Homeless Grants Application Resources

## General Resources

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- [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations \(eCFR\): PART 576](#): The Code of Federal Regulations is the codification of the general and permanent regulations published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government of the United States. Part 576 pertains to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).
- [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations \(eCFR\): 2 CFR 200](#): Covers uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards.
- [HUD Exchange: ESG Dashboard](#): The HUD Exchange is an online platform for providing program information, guidance, services, and tools to HUD's community partners.
- [HUD Exchange: CoC and ESG Virtual Binders](#): CoC and ESG Virtual Binders cover foundational topics from the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) programs.

## Quick Guides

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- [ESG Requirements Overview](#)
- [ESG Program Components Quick Reference](#)
- [At a Glance: Homeless Definitions and Recordkeeping](#)
- [At a Glance: At-Risk of Homelessness Definitions and Recordkeeping](#)

## Other Resources and Requirements

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- [HUD Income Limits](#)
- [HUD Fair Market Rent](#)
- [KnoxHMIS Homepage](#)
- [ESG Written Standards – Requirements \(24 CFR 576.400\(e\)\(3\)\)](#)

# ESG Component Categories

## Street Outreach

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These activities are designed to meet the immediate needs of unsheltered people by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, and/or critical health services. Includes essential services necessary to reach out to unsheltered people and provide urgent, non-facility-based care to those unwilling/unable to access emergency shelter, housing, or an appropriate health facility.

### Eligible Participants

Beneficiaries must qualify as homeless under paragraph (1)(i) of the “homeless” definition under § 576.2:

1. An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
  - i. An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

### Eligible Activities

Eligible costs include engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services, transportation, and services for special populations.

[See 24 CFR 576.101](#)

## Emergency Shelter

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These activities are designed to increase the quantity and quality of temporary shelters provided to people experiencing homelessness. This includes any facility where the primary purpose is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.

### Eligible Participants

#### ***HOMELESS CATEGORY 1: Literally Homeless***

1. Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
  - i. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; **or**
  - ii. Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); **or**

- iii. Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

### ***HOMELESS CATEGORY 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness***

2. An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
  - i. Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - ii. No subsequent residence has been identified; **and**
  - iii. The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to *obtain other permanent housing*.

*NOTE: Includes individuals and families who are within 14 days of losing their housing, including housing they own, rent, are sharing with others, or are living in without paying rent.*

### ***HOMELESS CATEGORY 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes***

3. Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with Category 3 children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:
  - i. Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes;
  - ii. Have not had a lease, ownership interest in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application;
  - iii. Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and
  - iv. Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers.

*NOTE: Individuals and families that qualify as homeless under Category 3 may be served by the ESG program if they meet required eligibility criteria for certain ESG components.*

### ***HOMELESS CATEGORY 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence***

4. Any individual or family who:
  - i. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
  - ii. Has no other residence; and
  - iii. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

### **Eligible Activities**

Renovation, including major rehabilitation or conversion, of a building to serve as an emergency shelter. The emergency shelter must be owned by a government entity or private nonprofit organization. The shelter must serve homeless persons for at least 3 or 10 years, depending on

the type of renovation and the value of the building. Note: Property acquisition and new construction are ineligible ESG activities.

Essential Services, including case management, child care, education services, employment assistance and job training, outpatient health services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation, and services for special populations.

Shelter Operations, including maintenance, rent, repair, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, food, furnishings, and supplies necessary for the operation of the emergency shelter. Where no appropriate emergency shelter is available for a homeless family or individual, eligible costs may also include a hotel or motel voucher for that family or individual.

[See 24 CFR 576.102](#)

## **Specific Requirements**

- Meet basic habitability, zoning, and health requirements;
- Provide Lead Based Paint info pamphlets;
- NOT implement high barriers to admittance;
- NOT Charge rent or occupancy fees;
- Must provide equal access to transgender persons;
- May not deny access to shelter based on a minor child's age or gender;
- May not separate families based on a minor child's age;
- Family shelters must accept participant's definition of "family" and may not require legal marriage

## **Homelessness Prevention**

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These activities are designed to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or living in a public or private place not meant for human habitation, through housing relocation and stabilization services and short and/or medium term rental assistance.

### **Eligible Participants**

This assistance may be provided to individuals and families who meet the criteria under the "at risk of homelessness" definition and have an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD.

### ***AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS CATEGORY 1***

1. An individual or family who:
  - i. Has an annual income below 30 percent of Median Family Income (MFI) for the area, as determined by HUD;
  - ii. Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, (e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks), immediately available to prevent them from

moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the “homeless” definition in this section; and

- iii. Meets one of the following conditions:
  - a. Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;
  - b. **Is** living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
  - c. Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;
  - d. Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;
  - e. Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 persons reside per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;
  - f. Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or
  - g. Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient’s approved consolidated plan.

#### ***AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS CATEGORY 2***

2. A child or youth who does not qualify as “homeless” under this section, but qualifies as “homeless” under Section 387(3) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act ([42 U.S.C. 5732a\(3\)](#)), Section 637(11) of the Head Start Act ([42 U.S.C. 9832\(11\)](#)), Section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 ([42 U.S.C. 14043e– 2\(6\)](#)), Section 330(h)(5)(A) of the Public Health Service Act ([42 U.S.C. 254b\(h\)\(5\)\(A\)](#)), Section 3(m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 ([7 U.S.C. 2012\(m\)](#)), or Section 17(b)(15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 ([42 U.S.C. 1786\(b\)\(15\)](#)).

#### ***AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS CATEGORY 3***

3. A child or youth who does not qualify as “homeless” under this section, but qualifies as “homeless” under Section 725(2) of the McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act ([42 U.S.C. 11434a\(2\)](#)), and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that child or youth if living with her or him.

#### **Eligible Activities**

Housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to prevent the individual or family from moving to an emergency shelter, a place

not meant for human habitation, or another place described in paragraph (1) of the homeless definition.

The costs of homelessness prevention are only eligible to the extent that the assistance is necessary to help the program participant regain stability in their current housing or move into other permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

Eligible costs include:

- Rental Assistance: rental assistance and rental arrears
- Financial assistance: rental application fees, security and utility deposits, utility payments, last month's rent, moving costs
- Services: housing search and placement, housing stability case management, landlord-tenant mediation, tenant legal services, credit repair

[See 24 CFR 576.103](#)

### **Specific Requirements**

- Must document lack of other resources from other sources;
- Assessment of need;
- Meet with case manager (except VAWA or FVPSA);
- Must have written standards, procedures, and policies;
- Housing barriers addressed in a written plan;
- Assistance in obtaining appropriate supportive services like medical or mental health treatment or benefits like TennCare, SSI, or food stamps;
- "Rent Reasonableness," Habitability, and LBP Inspection are required prior to occupancy.

### **Rapid Re-Housing**

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These activities are designed to move people quickly from homelessness to permanent housing through housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and/or medium-term rental assistance.

### **Eligible Participants**

Eligible program participants meet the criteria under paragraph (1) of the "homeless" definition in § 576.2 or meet the criteria under paragraph (4) of the "homeless" definition and live in an emergency shelter or other place described in paragraph (1) of the "homeless" definition.

#### ***HOMELESS CATEGORY 1, PARAGRAPH 1: Unsheltered Homeless***

1. An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
  - i. An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human

beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

#### ***HOMELESS CATEGORY 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence***

1. Any individual or family who:
  - i. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
  - ii. Has no other residence; and
  - iii. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

#### **Eligible Activities**

Housing relocation and stabilization services and/or short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help individuals or families living in shelters or in places not meant for human habitation move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

Eligible costs include:

- Rental Assistance: rental assistance and rental arrears
- Financial Assistance: rental application fees, security and utility deposits, utility payments, last month's rent, moving costs
- Services: housing search and placement, housing stability case management, landlord-tenant mediation, tenant legal services, credit repair

[See 24 CFR 576.104](#)

#### **Specific Requirements**

- Must document lack of other resources from other sources;
- Assessment of need;
- Meet with case manager (except VAWA or FVPSA);
- Must have written standards, procedures, and policies;
- Housing barriers addressed in a written plan;
- Assistance in obtaining appropriate supportive services like medical or mental health treatment or benefits like TennCare, SSI, or food stamps;
- "Rent Reasonableness," Habitability, and LBP Inspection are required prior to occupancy.