

2020/2019-CV Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Application Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated 5/28/20

Application Documents

Where is the Board Resolution located in the application?

We do not have a prescribed format. Please provide a Board Resolution from the entity that is applying for funding. You should use your organizations resolution format and be sure it clearly indicates approval to apply for and receive the ESG funding.

Is there a worksheet for the Budget Narrative?

No there is not a worksheet. Each applicant can create their own template. The Budget Narrative should detail out what the funding (by line items) is being requested for and how it will be used.

The staffing chart refers to “Position” and “Title” - how are we to differentiate between the two columns?

“Position” may make note of the general roles pertaining to program management, e.g. Case Manager, Housing Search Locator, Landlord Relationship Coordination, etc. “Title” is to be the actual title of the staff member within the organization.

If our organization currently has a non-ESG contract with either the City or County, do we need to complete Attachment A?

Yes. All agencies that have not had an ESG contract with Allegheny County and/or the City of Pittsburgh in the past 3 years must complete Attachment A.

Match

If we receive a grant in June 2020 and expend it July 2020-June 2021, can we use those funds as a match for the ESG 2020-2021 funding? If we received a grant earlier this year (March 2020) and expend it over 12 months, would we be permitted to apply the portion from July onward towards the 2020-2021 match?

The dates of expenditures for the match funds must align with the ESG contract dates. Matching fund award dates are not applicable.

What are the match requirements?

Matching contributions may be obtained from any source, including any Federal source other than the ESG program, as well as state, local, and private sources as long as the following requirements are met:

- The matching funds are contributed to the ESG Program and expended for the Agency's allowable ESG costs.
- If the matching funds are from another federal program, there is no specific statutory prohibition on using those funds as match;
- The matching funds are used in accordance with all requirements that apply to ESG grant funds, except for the expenditure limits in 24 CFR 576.100. This includes requirements such as documentation requirements, eligibility requirements, and eligible costs.
- The matching funds are expended by the expenditure deadline that applies to the ESG funds being matched;
- The matching funds have not been and will not be used to match any other Federal program's funds nor any other ESG grant;
- The recipient does not use ESG funds to meet the other program's matching requirements; and
- The recipient keeps records of the source and use of the matching funds, including the particular fiscal year ESG grant for which the matching contribution is counted.

Is the match requirement waived for the 2020 HPRRH application?

The match requirement is NOT waived for any ESG 2020 funds. There IS a dollar for dollar match requirement for ALL ESG 2020 funds, including HPRRH funds.

Must the matching funds be in place/already awarded, or can we use funds that are still in the application phase?

Applicants can submit proof of funding applications, however ultimately all awarded applicants must fulfill their one-for-one match obligations, and must cover the contract period of the agreement.

General Eligibility

Is there a minimum or maximum amount able to be requested?

Applicants applying as Lead Agencies under the HPRRH application are strongly encouraged to request no less than \$250,000, as the role of lead agency is a significant undertaking. While there isn't a set maximum, all requested amounts must be reasonable and the Agency must demonstrate the capacity to expend the funds.

Are there any restrictions around use of funds for a faith-based organization under either the ESG or ESG-CV funding opportunities?

Faith-based organizations must demonstrate that no ESG or ESG-CV funding was used for explicitly religious activities. The religious activities must be offered separately, in time or location, from the ESG funded programs and participation in religious activities by individuals assisted by ESG funds must be voluntary. (see 24 CFR § 5.109)

Can an agency apply for only 2019 ESG-CV funds for HPRRH (no 2020 ESG funds)?

Yes. The Budget Worksheet and the Application allow for the applicant to request either type of funds, or both. If your agency does not wish to request 2020 ESG funds, then only fill in amounts for 2019 ESG-CV.

Did I understand correctly [from the online presentation on 05/20/20] that funds for shelter and outreach will be available beginning January 2021?

No, that's not accurate--I'm sorry if we were unclear. That statement referred to the fact that HUD has issued guidance for a program similar to ESG, stating that eligible COVID 19-related costs that were incurred as early as mid-January 2020 can be reimbursed with CV (CARES Act) funding. We await written guidance from HUD as to the earliest date that COVID 19-related costs can be captured, but hope that it may be similar to this other HUD program (mid-January 2020).

Are the annual grants we typically receive from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services outside the scope of this ESG application process?

This application process is ONLY for Emergency Solutions Grant funds as administered via the City of Pittsburgh Office of Budget and Management and Allegheny County Economic Development.