

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program

SFY 2022 (2021 HUD Funds) Grant Funding Packet

For clarification, the year of the application is the Department of Human Services State Fiscal Year; the year in parenthesis is the year of the HUD ESG funds.

Illinois Department of Human Services
823 E Monroe Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701



2022 ESG Funding Packet Completed by the Continuum of Care (CoC)

Return electronically by **April 16th, 2021**
to: DHS.ESG@illinois.gov

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM
FUNDING PLAN PACKET

COVER SHEET

Name of Continuum: IL-519 West Central Illinois CoC

Counties Serve: Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Henderson, McDonough,
Morgan, Pike, Schuyler, Scott, Warren

Continuum Contact Person: Amanda Davis

Contact Person Address: 639 York St. Suite 202

Quincy, IL 62301

Contact Person E-mail Address: amandadavis@ywcaquincy.org

Contact Person Telephone: 217-221-9922

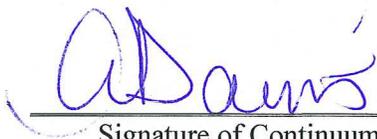
After Hours Emergency Contact Telephone Number: 309-333-3439 (cell)

Secondary Continuum Contact Person: Maria Rench

Secondary Contact Person Address: 639 York St Suite 202 Quincy, IL 62301

Secondary Contact Person E-mail Address: mariarench@ywcaquincy.org

Secondary Contact Person Telephone: 217-221-9922



Signature of Continuum Representative

Director of Grant Coordination
Title

4/15/2021
Date

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING PLAN PACKET

In order to process the ESG grants, we need information from the CoC level. Please respond to the questions found below that are specific to the CoC.

To be effective, a Continuum should strive to achieve the following performance measures:

- Reduce average length of time persons remain homeless.
- Reduce persons who exit homelessness return to homelessness.
- Improve program coverage to reduce number of individuals/families who are homeless.
- Improve employment and income growth of individuals/families that are homeless.
- Reduce of individuals/families that become homeless for the first time.
- Successful placement from Street Outreach and successful placement in or retention of permanent housing.

West Central Illinois CoC requires active participation in the CoC and HMIS data entry or equivalent for ESG & CoC recipients. HMIS licensing is provided for non-ESG funded program if a provider cannot afford HMIS user licenses or increases in agency HMIS capacity.

The CoC's HMIS is ServicePoint provided by WellSky. The HMIS is fully consistent with HUD's ESG and CoC data requirements, and produces required reports, including System Performance Measures. HMIS data, specifically System Performance Measures, are the indicator for all performance measures listed above. Due to the InfoNet's limitations, the system performance data below does not include domestic violence provider data.

Gaps in the HMIS system continue to be an issue in determining true system performance. Three faith-based providers representing 59% of shelter beds have declined to enter data into HMIS, and the CoC is not yet capable of an InfoNet data import into ServicePoint.

A. *Reduce average length of time persons remain homeless*

Indicators are our System Performance Measures (SPM) for 1.1 Average Length of Time Homeless. Our targets are ES SH average stays 60 days or less and ES, SH and TH average stays 90 days or less. In 2018, the CoC achieved both goals by a large margin (ES/SH stays were 37 days; ES/SH/TH stays were 56 days in 2018). The SPM data that will be submitted in May 2019 projects that the CoC will have missed the mark by a few days (ES/SH stays were 69 days; ES/SH/TH stays were 97 days in 2019). The data submitted in 2021, the CoC performed even better than in 2018, though the COVID-19 pandemic is almost certainly the reason. Between the influx of CARES Act funding and the need to reduce shelter capacity, project performance is, unfortunately, likely not the source of this success.

Metric	2019	2020	2021
1. LOT homeless: Persons in ES and SH	37	69	27
1. LOT homeless: Persons in ES, SH, TH	56	97	41

In the FY21 ESG application, the CoC hoped to make continued improvements to the Coordinated Entry System, but COVID-19 derailed those plans in favor of emergency response.

The CoC Research and Evaluation Committee recognized that RRH was needed to exit families from shelters to housing and that funds for RRH were severely lacking. Therefore, they advised ESG requesting agencies that priority would be given to RRH requests. If bonus funding is available in the next NOFA for CoC funding, the CoC will solicit RRH applications for funding to balance the housing portfolio and ensure that services are available to all individuals and households experiencing homelessness, whatever their severity of need. The agencies that receive RRH funding provide intensive case management; housing search and landlord negotiation assistance; rental assistance; assistance paying deposits and utilities; financial mentoring; employment assistance and linkage to mainstream and community benefits.

The implementation of Housing First is expediting placements in PSH. By removing barriers and once the family is stable then focusing on employment and assistance to promote greater self-sufficiency, families will spend less time in shelters.

B. Reduce persons who exit homelessness return to homelessness.

The indicator is the SPM measure 2 the extent to which homeless persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing return to homelessness. The target is total recidivism less than 20%. While the CoC has achieved this goal in the most recent two reporting years, the most recent positive outcomes could be the result of the eviction moratorium. It is possible that the CoC could see a sharp increase in this metric when the eviction moratorium concludes.

Metric	2019	2020	2021
2.a. Permanent Exits with Returns to Homelessness: Exits from ES (sum of 6, 12, and 24 months)	26.7%	18.9%	18.2%
2.b. Permanent Exits with Returns to Homelessness: Exits from TH (sum of 6, 12, and 24 months)	2.5%	6%	5.2%
2.c. Permanent Exits with Returns to Homelessness: Exits from PH (sum of 6, 12, and 24 months)	3.9%	6.5%	5.4%
2.d. Permanent Exits with Returns to Homelessness: Total Exits	18.1%	13.8%	14.5%

CoC has adopted the following strategies to accomplish these performance measure indicators:

Our Housing-First approach removes preconditions for entry into PSH and stipulations for continued PSH has resulted in fewer returns to homelessness.

Illinois Department of Human Services ETH providers offer at least 6 months of follow-up for every household that exits TH for permanent destinations. This involves a minimum of monthly contact with recently exited clients.

The Coordinated Entry staff works with the local PHAs to place CoC clients in conventional public housing and Section 8 units and offers case management services to those placed. The largest PHA in our CoC is an active member of our CoC’s Council. Staff also work with landlords to negotiate reasonable rents and remove barriers to housing.

Our PSH projects serve the most vulnerable families (determined using the OrgCode SPDAT and accepted into PSH by a prioritized by-name list) and have adequate supportive services/case management funding to provide or link families to much-needed services.

Projects have reduced the barriers for entry. In the past, criminal convictions, reluctance to discontinue relationships with abusers, and active substance use were reasons that clients were rejected from PSH openings. PSH providers have updated their client guidelines to more closely align with Housing First and Trauma Informed Care philosophies.

The CoC examines agency-specific recidivism statistics when CoC-funded PSH projects go through a monitoring at the time of requesting renewal funding. ESG projects also go through the same monitoring.

C. Improve program coverage to reduce number of individuals/families who are homeless.

The indicator is SPM 3.1 Change in PIT and 3.2 Change in Annual Counts. Our CoC’s annual Point in Time Count results have been extremely low: for seven of the last ten years, zero unsheltered individuals or families were identified. Two individuals were identified in the 2019 unsheltered PIT, three individuals in the 2020 unsheltered PIT, and one individual in the 2021 unsheltered PIT. The target is to maintain or decrease the number of unsheltered individuals and households identified in the PIT and sheltered as reported in the SPM 3.1 and 3.2 each year. The total number of individuals enumerated in the sheltered and unsheltered PIT counts has slightly, but steadily decreased in recent years.

Metric	2019	2020	2021
3.2.a Unduplicated Total Sheltered Persons	473	466	439
3.2.b Emergency Shelter	425	412	373
3.2.c. Transitional Housing	52	62	68

Our CoC plan to accomplish this target is to annually review data and evaluate the gaps in programs when making funding recommendations. Our CoC receives Homeless Prevention grants from Illinois DHS for rental and utility assistance to continue the effort of preventing new entries into homelessness. The addition of more RRH should continue to improve PIT numbers.

In addition to steady or improved performance on System Performance Measures metrics 3.1 and 3.2, another CoC goal is that 65% DHS ETH clients move into permanent housing destinations. The CoC also anticipates that clients in dormitory-style housing are more likely to leave the program before reaching permanent housing goals than clients in ETH programs.

The CoC will work within the social service network to provide self-sufficiency supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This includes advocacy and referral to ensure that as many families and individuals as possible attain a successful exit and transition to permanent housing. The CoC will continue to encourage all service providers within the CoC to maintain or add programs that assist families and individuals.

D. Improve employment and income growth of individuals/families that are homeless.

The indicators are SPM 4.1-4.6 Employment and income growth for homeless persons in CoC-funded projects. West Central Illinois’ goal for employment and income growth is to either maintain or increase employment and income as compared to the prior year. Our CoC applies for only PSH funding; since a disabling condition is part of the eligibility requirements for PSH, employment growth is typically low due to most program participants maximizing their total income with SSI benefits.

The CoC’s performance was relatively stable in recent years, but outcomes have taken a negative turn due to the COVID-19 pandemic. from the prior to the current SPM reporting period. Earned income dropped significantly since the previous reporting year, which we attribute to restaurant, retail, and some service jobs experiencing layoffs and closures in order to comply with State of Illinois restrictions intended to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

Metric	2019	2020	2021
4.1. Percentage of adults who increased earned income: stayers	29%	40%	16.67%
4.2. Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income: stayers	21%	7%	0%
4.3. Percentage of adults who increased total income: stayers	36%	40%	16.67%
4.4. Percentage of adults who increased earned income: leavers	29%	38%	35.29%
4.5. Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income: leavers	29%	15%	17.65%
4.6. Percentage of adults who increased total income: leavers	43%	46%	41.18%

Our strategy to accomplish this target is the use of the Work Ready Toolbox (WRT) which is accessible to all homeless service providers and individuals on a United Way website. WRT is a collaborative effort between the Workforce Investment Board and United Way agencies that identifies soft skills desired by employers and provides resources for job seekers to develop those skills. Case managers at the CoC-funded and ESG-funded programs are trained to navigate the toolbox with participants to assist in increasing job seeking skills.

Case managers are trained in SOAR and assist participants with the SSI process. Collaborations with IL DHS and Illinois Department of Employment Services to access other non-employment sources of income such as TANF, AABD, child support and unemployment benefits allow CoC and ESG-funded programs to link participants to each. The CoC's Research and Evaluation Committee monitors growth in income from employment and other sources as part of its annual ranking process.

The Illinois Department of Employment Security is also a valuable resource for homeless persons. Case managers assist with online resources like IllinoisJobLink.com, the state's hiring board that lists employment opportunities. The Re-entry Employment Service Program serves persons who are currently, or have in the past, been subject to any stage of the criminal justice process and who require assistance in overcoming barriers to employment. Illinois Job Link is the state's primary employment and training resource for workforce development. Because most of these services are online; ESG and CoC programs provide access to computers/internet and provide case managers to assist job seekers in navigating these services. Case managers also connect jobseekers to job fairs and workshops provided by ILDHS and IDES designed to improve job skills. Persons with a disability are referred to DHS's Division of Rehabilitation Services, the state's lead agency serving individuals with disabilities.

E. Reduce of individuals/families that become homeless for the first time.

The indicator is SPM 5.1 and 5.2 Change in the number of persons entering ES, SH, TH and PH projects with no prior enrollments in HMIS. Data limitations exist for these measures: 3 faith-based providers which represent 59% of the CoC's shelter beds do not enter data into HMIS. The CoC regularly approaches these agencies about HMIS participation, but they continue to decline to participate. The CoC anticipates that if these agencies chose to enter HMIS data, there would be a sudden jump in the number of new entries into homelessness, but that increase would be the new baseline. There has been a slight but steady decrease in first recorded experiences of homelessness in recent years, but the CoC can not draw accurate conclusions due to the lack of faith-based providers' HMIS participation.

Additionally, the eviction moratorium and CARES Act homelessness prevention funding may be stabilizing at-risk households.

Metric	2019	2020	2021
5.2. First experiences of homelessness: ES, SH, TH	374	365	354
5.3. First experiences of homelessness: ES, SH, TH, PH	415	398	386

To accomplish this target homeless prevention services are crucial. Illinois Department of Human Services Homeless Prevention funds are essential in the CoC. Since ESG-HP is no longer an eligible activity, the CoC’s Research and Evaluation (R&E) committee shifted funds to ESG-RRH. To compensate for the loss of ESG- HP funds, R&E is prioritizing homeless prevention funding from other sources such as Illinois DHS funds; Emergency Food and Shelter funds; and funding from local Unmet Needs Committees spearheaded by our local United Ways.

Homeless prevention funding is scarce, so we utilize our Coordinated Entry process to divert persons from homelessness by assessing their needs and barriers then assisting in a safe placement plan which includes: case management; 24-hour crisis hotlines; meals; hospital response; counseling; transportation; medical/legal/institutional advocacy; food pantry; referrals; job training; domestic violence education; alcohol and substance abuse counseling; life skills training; and assistance in obtaining childcare; or GED/continuing education.

F. Successful placement from Street Outreach and successful placement in or retention of permanent housing.

The CoC has developed its first formal street outreach project through the CARES Act (ESG-CV). Additionally, the CoC partners closely with VA, local law enforcement, soup kitchens, food banks, and informal service providers that interact with individuals and families experiencing Category 1 homelessness (literally homeless). VA Outreach workers communicate locations of unsheltered households and inform them of CoC services regardless of their veteran status. Law enforcement agencies in all 11 counties in our CoC are surveyed regarding locations where unsheltered households might be found the night of the PIT Count. Those agencies do coordinate with our ESG- and CoC-funded programs to make referrals. Positive exits from emergency shelter, transitional housing, and RRH

Metric	2019	2020	2021
7a.1. Successful Exits from Street Outreach	0	0	100%
7b.1. Successful Exits from ES, SH, TH, PH-RRH	50.11%	46.10%	62.76%
7b.2. Successful Exits from PH	94.12%	91.76%	98.99%

*****Please note in given the needs of the homeless population and to better align with HUD efforts, the State of IL ESG will not provide funds for Emergency Shelter Renovation & Homeless Prevention during this application year.**

Please describe, as a CoC, how each of the measures will be accomplished, and develop performance indicators and targets for each (you can use the data you provided to HUD in the CoC application):

1. **List and describe top five achievements this year.**
 - A. **COVID-19 Emergency Response:** Like homeless service providers worldwide, West Central Illinois CoC’s normal operations and priorities were dramatically disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency shelter capacity was reduced by as much as 50%, with clients being placed in hotel/motel in an effort to continue serving as many people as possible. Agencies created and implemented safety and sanitation plans that had never been considered before, and delivered services via Zoom meeting, telephone, and at a safe in-person distance. Agency administration adapted quickly to new funding streams, and implemented emergency prioritization plans. Symptomatic staff and clients were quickly identified and quarantined, effectively reducing the

spread of COVID-19. Thanks to providers' incredible adaptability and efforts, zero IL-519 clients died from COVID-19.

- B. Strengthened Relationship with VA and SSVF:** In the past, the CoC's relationship with Veteran's Administration Outreach personnel was strained. Over the last year, the CoC's relationship with VA Outreach has strengthened, collaborating on the 2019 and 2020 Point in Time Counts. VA Outreach personnel regularly attend CoC meetings. Jim Gatti, VA Outreach Social Worker, now sits on the CoC Board.

West Central Illinois CoC veterans experiencing and at risk of homelessness now have access to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families [SSVF] program for the first time. The program is administered by the Salvation Army in Galesburg, Illinois, which was able to expand its service territory to include all 11 counties of IL-519. From May 2020 to date, 19 veteran households have been stabilized through this program. For context, during calendar year 2018, 30 veterans were recorded in HMIS; calendar year 2019, 27 veterans were recorded in HMIS; and calendar year 2020, 18 veterans were recorded in HMIS. The Galesburg Salvation Army's expansion of SSVF into IL-519 has been an incredible tool for routing veterans to expert housing and health care.

The CoC has also strengthened its relationship with other veteran service providers, such as the Tri-State Veteran Support (TSVS), a collaborations of veteran service organizations whose mission is to identify veterans in need and connect them to available services. Membership includes the VA & VA Medical Clinic, Illinois National Guard, Goodwill Industries, IL Dept. of Employment Security, Missouri Workforce Development, United Way of Adams County, Tri-State Warrior Outreach, Adams County Health Department, Salvation Army, Virgene Project (free clothing and goods bank for veterans), the Elks, and more. This group planned and carried out the region's first Veterans Stand Down and is now planning the second. The TSVS has been instrumental in linking veterans experiencing and at-risk for homelessness with services, reducing their first entries into homelessness, the length of time they spend homeless, and increasing veteran employment.

- C. Genesis House Completed 1 year of service:** After years of preparation, in January 2020 Genesis Garden opened Genesis House, a renovated 4-room Victorian home in Macomb, Illinois to shelter homeless families. McDonough County has needed a shelter for several years, and Genesis House is serving as a fantastic complement to Samaritan Well's ESG Emergency Shelter/DHS Emergency Transitional Housing and WIRC's housing for survivors of domestic violence. In fact, Genesis House was full within weeks of opening.

The four ESG funding recipient agencies welcomed Genesis Garden into the CoC, and willingly reduced their own awards in order for Genesis Garden to become the first new ESG-funded agency in many years. Ultimately, IL-519 ESG recipients were also recommended to serve as ESG-CV recipients, including Genesis Garden. This has been a great benefit to the CoC by allowing not one, but two (Genesis Garden and Samaritan Well) agencies in Macomb to administer ESG-CV funds.

- D. Street Outreach:** The CARES Act allowed the CoC to create its first formal street outreach teams. In prior years, street outreach was very informal, with service providers occasionally running into folks out in town who were experiencing homelessness and connecting them to resources. Now, service providers engage with folks at soup kitchens, food banks, and other locations where folks experiencing homelessness congregate, as well as location where unsheltered folks bed down, and doing formal intakes, document encounters, and link folks to services.

E. Strengthened Partnerships: Partnerships established pre-pandemic have been strengthened over the last year. The Hancock County State’s Attorney and Public Defender; the Adams County Probation Department; Quincy and Macomb Park Districts and libraries; and Sheriff’s Offices and Circuit Clerks in Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Henderson, McDonough, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler, Scott, and Warren Counties have been essential in identifying and housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness. These relationships have been vital in system/event planning, such as identifying locations for the PIT Count, sharing information about homeless prevention services, forecasting upcoming evictions, and more. Clients have benefitted from referrals from these agencies, as well, particularly individuals with severe mental health issues and those involved in the justice system. These agencies are also being engaged for coordinated entry (see #2 below).

2. Describe progress of the CoC Coordinated Entry System (CES) to date. Outline achievements and future goals for the CES. Detail how CES is being utilized within your counties.

Progress on all non-COVID related activities halted during 2020.

Progress

FY20 Goal: “The Adams, Brown, Pike, and Schuyler County region’s goal for the upcoming year is to formalize the use of the by-name list and write by-name list policies and procedures.” In November 2019, the CoC voted to accept the use of the By Name List and received a training on its use. A process has been discussed and will be finalized in 2020.

2021 UPDATE: As soon as the pandemic hit, this goal was sidelined. It will likely be revived in the future, but continues to be deprioritized in favor of more time-sensitive and safety-related goals.

FY20 Goal: “The Cass, Morgan, and Scott region’s goal for the upcoming year is to fully engage with New Directions, the faith-based emergency shelter in Jacksonville (train staff on administration of the SPDAT assessment and Coordinated Entry referral process).” Open communication exists between MCS Community Services, Crisis Center Foundation and New Directions. New Directions has also been approached about using HMIS, and they are open to it. Ensuring New Directions is properly set up in HMIS and training staff on HMIS are the next goals to be accomplished.

2021 UPDATE: New Directions shelter closed during the pandemic and has not reopened. New Directions has not provided the CoC or other local homeless service agencies with a target date for reopening.

FY20 Goal: “The overall goal for calendar year 2019 is to identify and build relationships with informal service providers (churches, local civic groups, generous families and businesses) in the most remote rural parts of the CoC, and include them in the Coordinated Entry process.” Basic contact has been made with formal service providers, such as soup kitchens and clothing banks, in the CoC’s outlying areas by having CoC representation at outlying county interagency council meetings. An opportunity to strengthen these relationships still exists.

2021 UPDATE: The CoC started strongly with this goal by attending various interagency council meetings in outlying CoC areas, but had to discontinue once the pandemic hit and lockdown was enforced. In early April 2021, the CoC reached out to a very new grassroots group in Schuyler County which is interested in serving those experiencing and at risk for homelessness. The group does not have a name yet, but generally represents the Schuyler County Ministerial Association and other like-minded community members.

FY20 Goal: The CoC has made great strides in building relationships with informal service providers, or agencies that come in contact with individuals and families experiencing homelessness but whose mission is not linked to addressing homelessness, such as Sheriff's Offices, Park Districts, and Libraries were initially engaged to identify locations for the Point in Time Count, but have since become a source of referrals. Circuit Clerks have been engaged in order to estimate the number of evictions per county, and right-size DHS Homeless Prevention funding. The Hancock County States Attorney and Public Defender reached out to the CoC about how to house folks experiencing severe, persistent mental illness in permanent supportive housing, and have since become a source of referrals and a source of knowledge about court processes.

2021 UPDATE: The CoC and service providers continue to engage with these agencies, but to a lesser degree than before the pandemic. The relationship between the CoC and the Circuit Clerks is becoming more and more important to the CoC, due to Circuit Clerks' knowledge about local evictions. The CoC has reached out to Circuit Clerks in an effort to estimate the number of evictions that will likely flood the CoC once the eviction moratorium ends.

Achievements

IL-519 quickly adapted to community needs and new safety standards during the COVID-19 pandemic. A street outreach team was assembled, complete with policies and prioritization for funding.

During 2020, the CoC's primary goal was to keep staff and clients safe from COVID-19, and thanks to rigorous sanitization, reduced shelter occupancy, working remotely, monitoring of symptoms, and isolating clients and staff exhibiting symptoms, zero staff or clients in IL-519 died from COVID-19.

3. Detail how much ESG funds will be used to implement CES.

Recipients of ESG funding are fully engaged in the Coordinated Entry System, but no ESG funds will be used for Coordinated Entry. All ESG funding is used for direct services, administration, and/or activities. Some HMIS activities are related to CES but not all. Our CoC's Planning Grant adequately meets our CES planning, implementation, and review needs at this time.

4. Attach a copy of the written standards that are set within the CoC. The CoC must have on file written standards for providing assistance, that must be used by all provider agencies receiving ESG funds from DHS (per HUD guidance). At a minimum, these standards should include the maximum allowable number of months clients may be assisted, the total dollar amount of assistance and any other stipulations that must be adhered to by provider agencies.

Attached.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT FUNDING PLAN PACKET

Funding Recommendation Plan

For purposes of planning, the CoC should prepare a list prioritizing the provider agencies to be funded, and the amounts to be granted using the attached CoC Funding Allocation. **The minimum grant amount is \$25,000.00.**

The CoC may request approval to allow an agency to subcontract to another agency within the CoC. If approval is granted, the applicant agency that is subcontracting must provide an executed subcontract with the completed ESG funding plan. The subcontract must be on the applicant agency's letterhead and must state the amount of funding being sub granted, the term of the subcontract (Example: July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021), the services that will be delivered, anticipated number of persons served, the expected outcomes, and that the social service provider receiving the subcontracted ESG funds will comply with all DHS contractual obligations, rules, regulations, and policies. The subcontract must also include a statement confirming that the applicant will have on file, all of the sub-grantee's applicable attachments. The subcontract must be signed and dated by an authorized agent of the applicant agency and the provider receiving the subcontract ESG funds.

Note: A sub-contracted agency cannot sub-contract to another agency. Only the main agency can sub-contract.

Recommendations for funding should be based on the following: the needs assessment conducted by the CoC, housing analysis, and, performance of the provider agency (based on HMIS and other factors). When providing the recommendations, please provide a narrative to explain how the CoC arrived at their recommendations. **Attach details to the application on scoring process and any denied applicants.**

When disbursing allocations, you are required to consider the following item:

- Ability to utilize funding on a yearly basis
- Number of clients served relative to the amount of funding received
- Timely submission of required documents
- Involvement within the Continuum
- Results of yearly audits
- Score of Risk Assessment (Grading Tool)
- Ensure the agency is utilizing Coordinated Entry

DHS has implemented a new policy to submit an attachment of Agencies denied funding and reasoning of denial.

Providing a list of recommended projects does not guarantee that any or all provider agencies will be funded. It is important that deliberate steps be taken to identify the providers based on regional need and the ability to operate the ESG funds. DHS will make the final determination based on program performance including timely submission of required documents, accuracy of documents, etc.

NARRATIVE EXPLAINING THE COC'S RECOMMENDATION

The CoC's method of identifying and recommending agencies for inclusion in the ESG application begins with the closure of the previous year's grant cycle. After the ESG application is submitted, the CoC posts the application on WCICCC.com, and encourages agencies that are operating faith-based shelters to read it. Because the CoC's homeless services portfolio remains steady, with very few agencies opening and closing, the agencies that receive these communications are consistent year-to-year. For the first time in

several years, a new agency opened, and expressed interest several months prior to the release of the ESG grant applications that they might be interested in applying. They were emailed the prior year's application materials, links to HUD's ESG web pages, and other helpful resources, include the contact information for current ESG agencies in the CoC for Q&A and mentorship.

Once the ESG application is released, the CoC collects performance data from applicant agencies and compiles it into a 1-pager format. The CoC then creates draft budget options, typically one option that includes only the current ESG applicants funded at the current ratios and an additional option that incorporates any possible budgetary changes that were requested, or new applicant agencies that are requesting inclusion in the ESG application.

The performance 1-pager and budget options are then emailed to the CoC's Research & Evaluation Committee, a neutral group of community members representing social service providers, business, Regional Offices of Education, Public Housing Authority, Veterans Administration, Center for Independent Living, and more. The Research & Evaluation Committee reviews agencies' performance and selects a budget option (that either maintains the previous year's funding ratios or includes changes) based on agency performance, cost per household, most recently conducted audit, etc. Although representatives from the ESG agencies do sit on the Research & Evaluation Committee, they abstain from voting, as does the CoC representative who creates the budgetary options.

Once voting is concluded, the decision is shared with the applicant agencies, the CoC's portion of the application is completed and submitted, and after the recipient agencies' applications have been submitted, the cycle of courting new ESG applicants begins again.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT FUNDING PLAN PACKET

To be completed by the CoC. If combination request, enter letter followed by comma (example: SO, ES/O, A). (The ESG Interim Regulations impose an annual funding cap on the total amount of the grant that may be used for street outreach and emergency shelter activities. This amount cannot exceed the greater of 60% of the grant amount or the amount of current fiscal year grant funds that was committed for homeless assistance activities.)

Street Outreach (60% CAP of total budget amount spent on homeless activities combined with SO and ES)

**Emergency Shelter (60% CAP of total budget amount spent on homeless activities combined with SO and ES)
Operations (ES/O)
Essential Services (ES/ES)**

**Rapid Re-housing
Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services (RR/HRSS)
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (RR/TBR)
Project Based Rental Assistance (RR/PBR)**

HMIS (all agencies are required to report in HMIS)

Administration (A)

<u>Provider Agency Name</u>	<u>Approved Sub-Contract Agency</u>	<u>2021 Recommended Funding Amount</u>	<u>Type of Service/Amount of Admin.</u>
Example: Agency XYZ	Agency ABC	\$80,000	RR, ES, HMIS, Admin \$2100
Salvation Army		\$51,852.00	ES, RRH, HMIS, Admin \$801.20
Crisis Center Foundation		\$25,091.00	ES, RRH, Admin \$801.20
Quanada		\$25,091.00	ES, RRH, Admin \$801.20
Samaritan Well		\$25,091.00	ES, HMIS, Admin \$801.20
Genesis Garden		\$25,091.00	ES, HMIS, Admin \$801.20
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
TOTAL FUNDS RECOMMENDED		\$152,216	

Continuum of Care: West Central Illinois CoC IL-519

Continuum of Care Representative: Amanda Davis

Date: 4/15/2021