Putting Housing First

Emergency Solutions Grant-CV Funding Allocations

MAYOR’S OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES

September 2020
ESG-CV BACKGROUND

Emergency Solutions Grant funds are federal funds administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to large cities, counties, and Continuums of Care to provide support to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness with an income below 50% of area median income (AMI). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD administered approximately $280 million per year in ESG funds.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic—and in anticipation of a resulting surge in demand for eviction prevention, shelter, and homeless services—HUD expanded and revised its ESG grant program in March 2020, administering a new $4 billion Emergency Solution Grant COVID-19 (ESG-CV) in two waves in spring and summer 2020. Baltimore City received $15.7 million in ESG-CV funds, all of which is now available for drawdown and contracting.

This report outlines how the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) will strategically distribute its ESG-CV funds to:

- Meet the immediate and fast-growing need for homeless services as a result of the pandemic, and;
- Advance MOHS’ priority goal to increase permanent housing.
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Equity
The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities or underlying health conditions, and communities of color. MOHS is committed to working with the Baltimore City Continuum of Care, and particularly its Lived Experience Advisory Committee, to identify racial disparities in local services, policies, and programming and to ensure an approach to homelessness prevention that promotes racial equity. Individuals have unique needs based on their circumstances, lived experience, and cultural background. As part of its commitment to equity, MOHS is leveraging ESG-CV funds to meet the needs of youth (ages 18 to 24), families, and survivors of domestic violence.

Permanent Solutions
MOHS and the Continuum of Care’s work is grounded in a belief that homelessness should be rare, brief, and non-recurring. And to realize that belief, MOHS must provide affordable, permanent housing solutions for individuals living in congregate shelters, hotels, and on the street. To advance this priority, a majority of ESG-CV funds provide rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention services such as rental assistance and case management to link people to health care, benefits, and employment support. MOHS will monitor funding usage to ensure equitable access to permanent housing among special populations, and make sure any return to homelessness does not occur at racially disproportionate rates.

Safety
Ensuring that all MOHS homeless service partners are equipped to provide services that are accessible and meet CDC safety standards is essential, especially as Baltimore City continues to be impacted by COVID-19. MOHS is committed to developing and implementing policies and practices that ensure shelters and homeless service programs comply with Baltimore City Health Department and CDC guidelines to maximize client and staff safety. To that end, MOHS is dedicating ESG-CV funds to increase food resources, personal protective equipment (PPE), and personnel at existing homeless service agencies to support social distancing, sanitation, hygiene, cultural competence, trauma-informed care, and harm reduction.
ESG-CV SUMMARY

ESG-CV funding was released in two rounds, first in April and then June. Substantial amendments have been released to cover both rounds of funding. Proposed funding allocations were released for two separate public comment periods and allocations have been approved by HUD.

Funding totals for the ESG-CV program
ESG-CV-1: $6,571,738
ESG-CV-2: $9,143,757

Total Funding Amount: $15,715,495

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESG-CV Allocation</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Rehousing</td>
<td>$7,268,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness Prevention</td>
<td>$3,457,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>$2,743,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Outreach</td>
<td>$915,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$960,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMIS</td>
<td>$370,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Award:</td>
<td>$15,715,495</td>
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</table>
RAPID REHOUSING

Funding Total: $7,268,905

Baltimore City’s single largest ESG-CV allocation provides rapid rehousing services for households experiencing homelessness; expanding the City’s response to COVID-19 to reduce crowding in City-run shelters and for families surviving domestic violence.

Households Experiencing Homelessness: $6,904,284
This effort supports a minimum of 150 households. The cost represents a two-bedroom, fair-market full rental subsidy for two years.

Baltimore City’s rapid rehousing strategy aligns with the community-wide Built for Zero approach to ending homelessness and intends to prevent as many people as possible from returning to congregate shelter settings, especially those at risk of serious COVID-19 health complications. Individuals enrolled in this program receive rental assistance and comprehensive case management services to ensure their housing remains permanent.

Families Surviving Domestic Violence: $364,621
House of Ruth Maryland will leverage ESG-CV funding to provide rapid rehousing to approximately 40 new families over the course of the two-year grant—in addition to those families currently enrolled in its rapid rehousing program.

More than 1 in 3 individuals experiencing homelessness in Maryland call Baltimore home.

*According to the 2020 Point-in-Time Count.
HOMELNESS PREVENTION

Funding Total: $3,457,372

This ESG-CV allocation provides homelessness prevention assistance to low-income households, survivors of domestic violence, and youth experiencing homelessness.

Low Income Households: $3 million
MOHS will transfer $3 million of its ESG-CV funds to the Mayor’s Office of Children & Family Success to support a comprehensive, citywide COVID-19 Eviction Prevention program through its Community Action Partnership (CAP) Centers. As administrator of the new COVID-19 Eviction Prevention program, CAP will process applications for assistance through an online portal, assess applicant needs, and either refer applicants to legal assistance or provide them with an eviction prevention subsidy in the form of one to six months of back rent. MOHS will primarily target assistance to households earning 30% or less of AMI. While households earning up to 50% AMI are eligible for ESG-CV support, households at or below 30% of AMI are at highest risk of homelessness without financial assistance to stay in their current housing.

MOHS will target these populations for eviction prevention assistance:
- Families with children under 16
- Families with 5+ members
- Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness
- Older adults (62+)

Domestic Violence Survivors: $347,372
Additional funds are allocated for survivors of domestic violence, to be administered by the House of Ruth Maryland. House of Ruth expects to serve approximately 10 households per month—240 households over the duration of the two-year grant.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness: $110,000
Additional homelessness prevention funds are allocated for youth (ages 18 to 24) experiencing homelessness, to be administered by Youth Empowered Society (YES). The funding enables YES to expand its existing drop-in and rapid rehousing projects for youth critically at-risk of homelessness. YES expects to be able to provide approximately 25 youth with up to two months of rental assistance (up to $800/month) and 40 youth with up to two months of utilities assistance (up to $150/month).
EMERGENCY SHELTER

Funding Total: $2,743,421

MOHS commits the majority of emergency shelter funding—$2,589,421—for additional services at emergency shelters that provide 919 shelter beds for individuals and families and for day centers that serve thousands more across Baltimore City.

Following shrinking numbers of volunteers and food donations, emergency shelters are reporting increased food costs. Approximately 40% of the ESG-CV emergency shelter funding supports daily meals and snacks at shelters and drop-in centers. Funding also provides PPE for residents and staff; increased sanitation supplies to allow shelters to comply with CDC and Baltimore City Health Department safety guidelines; and increased personnel costs for shelters now operating on a 24/7 model instead of traditional overnight operations.

Allocation by Population Served

Lastly, $154,000 in emergency shelter funding will allow the creation of an MOHS staff position on the Emergency Services team to provide Coordinated Entry and Winter Shelter support.

With this funding, emergency shelter sites will also undergo renovations to promote physical distancing. Programs receiving renovation funds include:

- Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition (HEBCAC NEST)
- Youth Empowered Society Drop-In
- House of Ruth Maryland
- MOHS (Pinderhughes Women’s Shelter)
- Associated Catholic Charities My Sister’s Women’s Place Drop-In Center
- Baltimore Station
- St. Vincent de Paul Sarah’s Hope Shelter
- St. Vincent de Paul Beans & Bread Drop-In Center
- Manna House Drop-In Center
- Associated Catholic Charities Weinberg Housing Resource Center
- St. Vincent de Paul Greenspring Shelter

919 Shelter Beds Funded: $1,906,063
Each year, MOHS outreach workers support more than 600 residents experiencing unsheltered homelessness with food, hygiene kits, connection to community resources, case management services, and help reconnecting to family.

ESG-CV funds can enhance outreach services in preparation for an anticipated increase in people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Specifically, MOHS will dedicate $296,800 to street outreach personnel costs.

Street outreach funds will cover:

**Mobile Shower Truck**
People living in encampments often struggle to access the means to maintain regular and basic hygiene. Baltimore City currently has one mobile shower truck in operation and can add a second shower truck to expand services across the city. Funding will support shower operations, staffing, and maintenance for two mobile trucks to operate three to four days per week each.

**Additional Outreach Workers**
Currently, the outreach team has eight outreach workers and will have 10 once newly created positions are filled. Additional team members will create adequate street outreach coverage. Funding will support these positions for two years.
HMIS

Funding Total: $370,000

The MOHS Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) requires two additional staff to handle provider and grantor data requests. These positions build capacity to provide trainings to the community and HMIS end users, and improve coordination with trained navigators to enhance utilization of HMIS and coordinated access systems citywide; $320,000 is allocated to cover these two additional positions. An additional $50,000 is allocated for systematic upgrades and custom HMIS software development to support the CoC.

ADMINISTRATION

Funding Total: $960,755

Administrative funding is allocated to MOHS to increase internal capacity for monitoring and implementing ESG-CV spending. The funding will create two staff positions to ensure compliance with federal program regulations: an ESG/CARES Coordinator to oversee monitoring and program analysis for the entire ESG-CV project portfolio; and an accountant to manage all fiscal matters related to ESG-CV programs.

MOHS will allocate additional funding to cover:

• Travel costs incurred for the monitoring of ESG-CV sub-recipients;
• Administrative services performed under third-party contracts or agreements, including general legal services, accounting services, and audit services;
• Other costs for goods and services required for administration of the program, including rental or purchase of equipment, insurance, utilities, office supplies, and rental and maintenance (but not purchase) of office space.
## APPENDIX: FULL ALLOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MOHS (Administration)</td>
<td>$960,755</td>
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<td>House of Ruth Maryland</td>
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<td>Manna House Drop-In Center</td>
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<td>MOHS (Pinderhughes Women’s Shelter)</td>
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<td>Mobile Shower/Laundry Truck Partners</td>
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**TOTAL**                                                                    **$15,715,495**
MOHS received $1.9 million in regular Emergency Solutions Grant funding for FY 2021.

This funding is allocated for homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, emergency shelter and drop-in centers, outreach, HMIS, and administration—all with a focus on quickly providing safe and stable housing, and with 50% allocated for homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing.

This regular ESG funding serves primarily single adults. The ESG-CV funding allows MOHS to expand its services for groups with unique needs, specifically survivors of domestic violence and youth.

**Allocation by Activity**

- **Rapid Rehousing**: 30%
- **Emergency Shelter**: 22%
- **Homelessness Prevention**: 20%
- **Drop-In Centers**: 9%
- **Outreach**: 9%
- **HMIS**: 3%
- **Admin**: 7%

**Allocation by Population Served**

- **Single Adults**: 48%
- **Families**: 26%
- **DV Survivors**: 6%
- **Youth**: 9%
- **Adults Receiving Intensive Medical Care**: 11%

Funding Total: $1,905,804

APPENDIX: REGULAR ESG FUNDING