

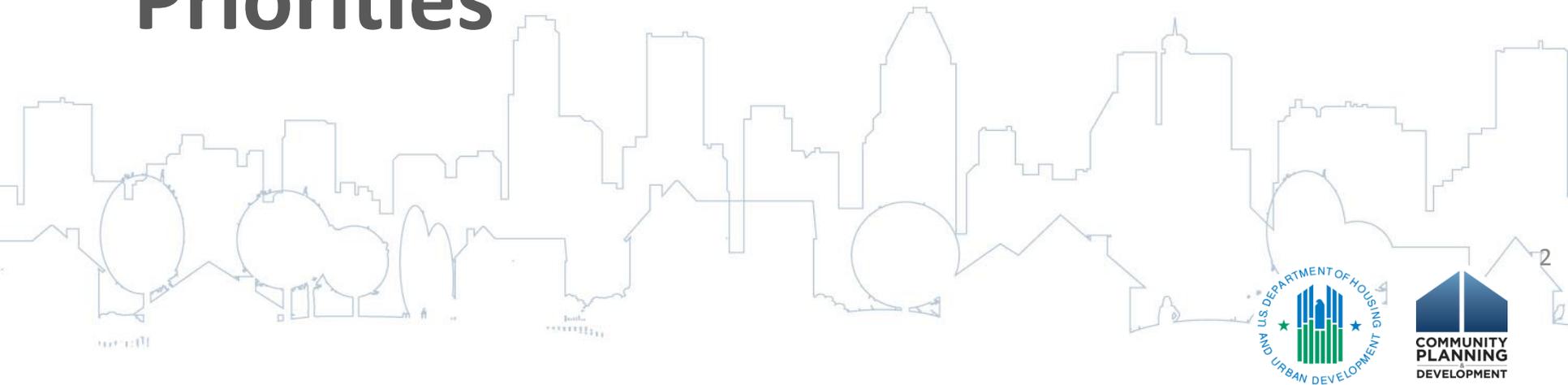


Implementing the HEARTH Act: The Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program

May 19, 2015



Big-Picture Overview of ESG Priorities



Congressional Emphases In HEARTH Act/Appropriations

- More funding for new Emergency Solutions concepts
- Limits on spending new funds on Street and Shelter
- New emphasis on Rapid Re-housing program, diversion from shelters/street, and homelessness prevention
- Enhanced coordination between CoC and ESG programs
- Housing First and Prioritizing hardest to serve populations

Implementing ESG priorities at community level

Important considerations for ESG recipients in designing local programs and setting priorities:

- Target funds carefully
- Think strategically about limited resources
- Invest more funds in Rapid Re-Housing
- Focus on results
- Collect quality data in HMIS
- Collaborate with CoCs
- Consider local lessons learned, and implement changes as needed at a community-wide level

McKinney-Vento Act Regulations: Guiding Values

- Comprehensive Local Collaboration, Coordination, and Decision Making
 - ESG recipients must work collaboratively with CoCs to:
 - Make decisions about ESG and CoC funding within the CoC's geographic area
 - Develop written standards for evaluating and serving homeless persons
 - Implement a centralized or coordinated assessment system
 - Create performance standards and evaluate projects against these standards

HUD Priorities in Developing the ESG Regulation

- Broaden existing emergency shelter and homelessness prevention activities
- Emphasize Rapid Re-Housing
- Help people quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness
- Enhance alignment of ESG regulations with other HUD programs – including CDBG, HOME, and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program
- Support more coordinated and effective data collection, performance measurement, and program evaluation
- Lessons learned from HPRP

Focus on Rapid Re-Housing

- HUD strongly encourages jurisdictions to target new funds toward assisting individuals and families living on the streets or in emergency shelter
 - Effective Rapid Re-housing can transition people out of homelessness quickly and decrease the overall number of people that are homeless in the community
 - Homelessness prevention is difficult to strategically target and potentially inefficient in reducing homelessness
- Rapid Re-housing should be given highest priority under ESG to ensure that existing resources – within and outside the homeless assistance system – are used as efficiently as possible

Homelessness Prevention and Targeting

Homelessness Prevention

- Difficult to strategically target (many people assisted would not have become homeless)
- More difficult to measure effect on reducing literal homelessness
- Homelessness prevention focused on shelter diversion targets resources effectively by addressing those who are about to become homeless

Data Collection and Performance

- Use of HMIS is required for all recipients of CoC and ESG funds, except for victim service providers
- ESG recipients and CoCs should use HMIS data locally to report to HUD, monitor recipient and subrecipient performance, and monitor system-wide performance in preventing and ending homelessness
- HUD will use HMIS data to understand the nature and extent of homelessness throughout the country, report to Congress, and make funding decisions

HEARTH Focus on Outcomes

- ESG performance on the following measures will impact CoC performance:
 - Length of time homeless
 - Return to homelessness
 - Access/coverage (thoroughness in reaching persons who are homeless)
 - Overall reduction in number of persons who experience homelessness
 - Job and income growth for persons who are homeless
 - Reduction in first time homeless

Resources

HUD ESG Information Page

<https://www.hudexchange.info/esg/>

ESG FAQs

<https://www.hudexchange.info/esg/faqs/>

System Performance Measures Introductory Guide

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3894/system-performance-measures-introductory-guide/>

Homeless Status: Recordkeeping Requirements *Webinar*

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2016/homeless-status-recordkeeping-requirements-webinar/>

At Risk Status and Income: Recordkeeping Requirements *Webinar* for ESG Grantees

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2017/at-risk-status-and-income-recordkeeping-requirements-webinar/>