



Central Florida CoC (FL – 507) State Emergency Solutions Grant 2016-17 Overview

The Department of Children & Families has issued a request for proposals for statewide Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding.

Emergency Solutions Grant:

The ESG program is designed as the first step in a continuum of assistance that addresses homelessness and enables the homeless population to move steadily toward independent living. The Continuum of Care (CoC) model is based on the understanding that homelessness is not caused simply by a lack of shelter, but is caused by a variety of underlying human and social conditions. HUD believes the best approach for alleviating homelessness is to establish a community-based process that provides a comprehensive response to the diverse needs of homeless persons.

Eligible Activities

HUD eligible activities include:

- Emergency Services (no more than 60% of the State's total funding can be spent on these activities, though States can spend less than 60% on these activities)
 - o Operating of Emergency Shelter
 - o Services in Emergency Shelter
 - o Includes Bridge Housing
 - o Street Outreach
- HMIS
- Rapid ReHousing

- Housing Stability Services
- Short and Medium Term Rental Assistance
- Prevention – while an eligible activity, guidance recommends that funding be used for Rapid ReHousing until currently homeless populations have been housed
- Administration (7.5% at the State level, 5% for regional applicants)

Changes in the Florida Balance of State Emergency Solutions Grant Process:

In the upcoming fiscal year (2016-17), the DCF Office on Homeless will be making a change in the manner in which the ESG is funded and we wanted to make sure you were aware of this change.

In attempting to align funding with HUD's priorities having local communities plan, coordinate and collaborate on projects to ensure that community needs are being met, the ESG Program will be ONLY available to lead agencies for application. This means that no other non-profits or local governments will be able to apply for the ESG Program through the Department of Children and Families. HSN will determine the projects and providers to fund based on the local CoC Plan and community needs.

In addition, funding will be available for a 3-year period to enhance communities' ability to plan and coordinate activities. Funding levels will be announced for subsequently fiscal years based on appropriations by HUD and the Florida Legislature and grant performance. Funding levels will be determined based on need and performance.

HSN's application to DCF is due June 8 at 3:00 PM.

Funding Allocation:

The maximum grant award that Homeless Services Network may request for the region is \$250,000 for FY 2016-17, which includes a 5% administrative fee of \$12,500. Since these are Balance of State ESG funds, the remaining funds (\$237,500) will be made available for Seminole and Osceola Counties. In determining what percentage of the funds should be made available to each county, HSN used three figures for comparison.

Data Point (%)	Osceola	Seminole
2016 PIT	45%	55%
Average of 2014 and 2015 ESG awards when administered by DCF	71%	29%
HUD's published pro-rata share for 2016	28%	72%
Average %	49%	51%
Max each County may request	\$114,000	\$123,500

Process for Determining How Funds Will Be Awarded and Used

In its application to DCF on behalf of the region, HSN must identify how much funding will be used for different categories of ESG eligible activities. (ESG cannot be used for Permanent Supportive Housing.) Given both HUD and system priorities, HSN will ask each county to recommend funding for one or more of the following.

Top Priority	Rapid ReHousing (non-chronic)
Second Priority	Low Demand Bridge Housing
Third Priority	Emergency Shelter

To be included in the region's application, Seminole and Osceola Counties should

- compare the above named priorities and eligible activities with their own local planning processes
- identify which of the three priority categories of funding will be requested and in what amount
- identify agency(s) to be awarded funding, recognizing that DCF will use outcome data in making the final determination about the amount of funding the regional will be awarded

The regional application deadlines include:

- Counties submit Priority Funding recommendation (which of the 3 categories) to HSN no later than Friday, May 27
- Counties submit to HSN commitment to comply with Match requirements no later than Wednesday, June 1
- Counties submit to HSN recommendation of agencies to fund for each category, preferable by Wednesday, June 1, but no later than Monday, June 20

Based upon Seminole and Osceola County recommendations, Homeless Services Network will engage the selected organizations for completing the ESG application and contracts.

Match Requirements

Applicants who receive an ESG award are required by 24 C.F.R. § 576 and the State of Florida to match the award with an amount that equals the full amount of the ESG award. An applicant or sub-provider may use in-kind services, or other public or private cash sources to meet the dollar for dollar match. Matching funds must be provided after the date of grant award. Funds used to match previous ESG or any other grant may not be used to match the grant award made under this grant application.

Grant recipients may use any of the following as matching funding:

- 1. Cash
- 2. Value or fair rental value of any donated material or building used to support the ESG program, including the value of any lease on a building
- 3. Value of the time and services contributed by volunteers to carry out the program of the recipient based on the value at rates consistent with those paid for similar work in the recipient's organization (24 C.F.R. § 576.201(e)).

For cash match, "provided" means when the funds are expended (or when the allowable cost is incurred). For in-kind match, it is the date the service (or other in-kind match source) is actually provided to the program or project. ESG matching funds must be expended within the same expenditure deadline that applies to the ESG funds being matched (i.e. the 12-month deadline). Non-cash contributions must be made within the expenditure deadline.