

Macomb County Community Development

Emergency Solutions Grant

Homeless Prevention Policy and Procedures

December 2017

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program

HOMELESS PREVENTION (HP)	
Eligibility	
<p>To receive ESG homeless prevention assistance, an individual or family must demonstrate at initial evaluation that it is homeless (categories 2,3 and 4) or at-risk of homelessness (categories 1,2 and 3). Please see 24 CFR 576.2 for definitions.</p> <p>Homeless service providers agree to only accept referrals from central intake and refer all households seeking assistance to central intake for assessment. Coordination among homeless service providers with central intake allows for consistent assessment and community targeting.</p>	
Determining Eligibility	
<p>ESG recipients and subrecipients must conduct initial evaluations for all households. To receive ESG assistance, a program participant's initial evaluation must demonstrate eligibility based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income. The program participant's household annual income must be below <u>30% (AMI)</u>. • Lack of resources and support networks. The program participant's household must lack sufficient resources and support networks that would prevent them from moving into an emergency shelter, living in a place not meant for human habitation or other places described in Category 1 of the homeless definition. • Need. The recipient or subrecipient must determine the amount and type of assistance that the individual or family will need for housing stability or to remain in permanent housing. 	
Need and Continued Eligibility	
<p>ESG recipients and subrecipients must conduct regular re-evaluations, at least every 3 months, of program participants receiving HP assistance. To continue to receive ESG assistance, a program participant's re-evaluation must demonstrate eligibility based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income. The program participant's household annual income must be less than or equal to <u>30% (AMI)</u>. • Lack of resources and support networks. The program participant's household must continue to lack sufficient resources and support networks to retain housing without ESG assistance. • Need. The recipient or subrecipient must determine the amount and type of assistance that the individual or family will need for housing stability or to remain in permanent housing. 	
Financial Assistance Guidelines	
Type of Assistance	Guidance
Rental Arrearages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to exceed three (3) months • Not to exceed \$2,000 per household

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any combination of three (3) types of rental assistance must not exceed twenty-four (24) months during any three year period
Rental Application Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May pay for rental housing application fee
Short-Term Rental Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to exceed three (3) months Not to exceed \$3,500 per household for this category Cannot be used with other subsidies Any combination of three (3) types of rental assistance must not exceed twenty-four (24) months during any three (3) year period
Medium-Term Rental Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four (4) – Eight (8) months assistance Not to exceed \$7,500 per household per household for this category Households are required to pay 30% of their gross monthly income or 10% of their net monthly income, not to exceed the highest of either of the two towards rent. Any combination of three (3) types of rental assistance must not exceed twenty-four (24) months during any three (3) year period
Security Deposit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to exceed 1.5 times the monthly rent not to exceed \$1,500
Last Month's Rent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be paid at the time of security deposit and first month's rent, if required to obtain rental unit Cannot exceed one (1) month's rent Must be included in calculating total rental assistance which must not exceed twenty-four (24) months during any three (3) year period
Moving Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be paid for cost of truck rental, hiring a moving company or temporary storage fees for up to three (3) months Payment for temporary storage fees in arrears is not eligible. Participant must be receiving assistance for services and not have moved into permanent housing to receive assistance with temporary storage fees
Utility Deposit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible services include: gas, electric, water & sewer \$250 per service not to exceed \$1,000 One (1) time assistance limit for this category
Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of ability to make future payments required in order to receive utility assistance. Eligible services include: gas, electric, water & sewer Not to exceed \$2,000 per household Not to exceed twelve (12) months per household per service including six (6) months arrearages per service within any three (3) year period.
Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to exceed thirty (30) days during the period the participant is seeking permanent housing and can't exceed twenty-four (24) months during the period the participant resides in the permanent housing
Rental Assistance Overview	
Housing Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Units must pass HUD Habitability Standards.
Lead-Based Paint Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lead-based paint visual assessment, performed by an inspector trained in visual assessment for deteriorated paint surfaces in accordance with HUD standards is required when a child under the age of 6 will be residing in a unit that was constructed before 1978. Must comply with LBP Poisoning Prevention Act of 1973 and applicable regulations found at 24 CFR 35, Parts A, B, H, J, K, M and R.

Fair Market Rent (FMR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental assistance may cover up to the FMR for a unit unless the program requires a household contribution towards monthly housing expenses. Please see ESG policies for a complete set of requirements.
Rent Reasonableness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Units must comply with County rent reasonableness standards. Please see ESG policies for a complete set of requirements.
Lease Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A written lease between the owner and the program participant is required for assistance. The only exception to the written lease requirement is in the case of rental assistance provided solely for rental arrears.
Rental Assistance Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rental assistance agreement between the subrecipient and owner/property manager is required for assistance. The agreement must comply with 24 CFR 576.106, Part E.

***The limits of assistance apply to the total assistance an individual receives either as an individual or as part of a family.**