

Attending: Natasha Adams, Rebecca Buzzard, Lucy Carlson, Caitlin Fenhagen, Kathleen Ferguson, Barbara Foushee, Sally Greene, Jackie Jenks, Megan Johnson, Giovanna Mollinedo, Corey Root, Beth Schehl, Isabel Shapiro, Diiv Sternman, Emila Sutton, Vanessa Watson

Welcome & Updates

OCPEH updates

- Increasing staff capacity on Housing Helpline, meeting support, program management
 - Isabel Shapiro here in July for Meeting Support

ESG and ESG-CV Overview

The Coordinator presented background and overview information on the two main sources of federal homeless services funding: Continuum of Care (CoC) funds have been the larger source until this year, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds have been volatile, but smaller. CARES Act funding provides supplemental ESG funds for COVID housing crisis (ESG-CV) and to support additional homelessness assistance and prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID in four rounds.

- Round 1: current process
- Round 2 allocation released from HUD to State ESG already (about double the round 1 amount), but no info from State ESG yet
- Round 3 & 4: no information yet

ESG-CV Funding Round 1

The State ESG Office issued a Request for Applications (RFA) for Round 1 (of 4 total rounds) ESG-CV on June 22, 2020. Orange County, through the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH), is eligible to apply for up to \$341,633 in total ESG-CV funds in four categories:

- Crisis Response: Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter Operations and Services
- Housing Stability: Rapid Rehousing, Homelessness Prevention
- Homeless Management Information Systems database
- Administration for fiscal sponsors and local units of governments

Funding decisions are made by Project Review Committee (develops recommendations, reviews applications) and Leadership Team (makes final decisions). Standing Project Review Committee was created in 2019 such that the same group reviews project applications and program performance (including creation and implementation of rating and ranking tool) year-round.

- Current term PRC members (July 2020-July 2021): Donna Carrington, Alison Demarco, Kathleen Ferguson, and Anne-Marie Vanaman. Joining after Round 1: Nate Broman-Filks, Christy Croft.
- Very crunched 2 week timeline already under way (would normally have a 10-12 week timeline).
- Project applications due noon on Friday, July 10.

The State ESG Office is asking local communities to decide on local funding amounts for project types, within the overall ESC-CV Round 1 allocation.

- The State ESG Office recommends splitting the available \$341,633 with 60% (\$204,980) for Housing Stability activities including rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention, and 40% (\$136,653) for Crisis Response activities like shelter and street outreach. Leadership Team discusses alignment between gaps identified in Homeless System Gaps Analysis of June 2019 and ESG eligible activities (Rapid Rehousing, Street Outreach, Shelter).

- The Project Review Committee recommends maintaining the 60% Housing Stability / 40% Crisis response split recommended by the State ESG Office, recognizing that it is difficult to make this decision without knowing which projects will apply and what the funding requests will be
- Leadership Team members want to provide enough funding for Housing Stability to expand rapid rehousing. Funding from Round 1 could be used to hire RRH staff and ramp up the program with existing HOME financial assistance. Future rounds of ESG-CV could be used to expand financial assistance for rapid re-housing.
- Leadership Team members want to focus funding on crisis response with particular attention to street outreach and expanding de-congregate shelter options and resources.
 - Not having street outreach is an equity issue, as people living unsheltered have no dedicated program or staff to help connect them to shelter and services; many people living unsheltered are Black or African-American, many struggle with mental illness
 - LT members discuss a project proposal for joint crisis outreach with the Housing Department and Criminal Justice Department with an approximate \$250,000 budget consisting of 2 peer support specialists and a Licensed professional (LCSW, LPC) responsible for deflection from law enforcement/court involvement and case management.

A motion was made to allocate ESG-CV Round 1 funds of \$341,633 as follows: 75% (\$256,225) to Crisis Response, 25% (\$85,408) to Housing Stability [Sternman, Foushee]. All in favor, none opposed. Abstained: Fenhagen, Jenks, Sutton.

Back@Home Participation

The State ESG Office is also asking communities to determine local participation in a statewide rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention program called Back@Home. This program uses a best practice model; provides infrastructure, offers capacity and support via training, and will provide data on the collective impact of this work.

- The Project Review Committee recommends participating in Back@Home.

A motion was made to participate in statewide Back@Home program [Ferguson, Foushee]. In favor: Adams, Ferguson, Foushee, Greene, Johnson, Mollinedo, Schehl. Opposed: Sternman. Abstained: Fenhagen, Jenks, Sutton.

Revised Rating & Ranking Tool

The Project Review Committee (PRC) drafted a revised rating and ranking tool – PRC members will use the rating and ranking tool to evaluate project applications for the ESG-CV Round 1 RFA. The revised tool combines the Program Performance Matrix used in year-round program evaluation and the CoC rating and ranking tool. The goal is to create a standard tool across PRC work, grant applications, and program performance monitoring.

- The proposed tool has objective measures that are scored by staff and subjective measures scored by PRC members. It also fulfills requirements set forth in ESG-CV RFA of using objective criteria for review, rating, and ranking; evaluating agency ability to spend awards; evaluating agency ability to meet goals and outcomes; and evaluating agency ability to reduce barriers to services and serve the most vulnerable people.
- PRC members added two measures concerning racial equity, both as threshold measures – whether agency is applying racial equity lens to their work; and how agency is training staff on racial equity.



Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Mon. June 6, 2020, 6-7:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

A motion was made to approve revised rating and ranking tool [Ferguson, Sternman]. All in favor, none opposed. Abstained: Fenhagen, Jenks, Sutton.

Leadership Team will finalize list of recommended projects for ESG-CV funding at next meeting, July 15, 6pm-7:30pm.

Next Meeting: July 15 via Zoom

Upcoming meetings: July 15 (Potential other funding-focused meetings if needed), Aug. 17, Sep. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21