

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS CARES Act Substantial Amendment

Prepared By

Division of Community Services 1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 2 PO Box 2057 Bismarck, ND 58502-2057 Phone: (701) 328-5300 Fax: (701) 328-5320 TTY: 800-366-6888 ND Relay Voice: 800-366-6889 ND Relay Spanish: 800-435-8590



ALTERNATIVE FORMATS FOR DISABLED PERSONS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 2 • P.O. Box 2057 • Bismarck, ND 58502-2057 • Phone: 701-328-5300 • Toll-Free: 1-866-4DAKOTA Fax: 701-328-5320 • ND Relay TTY: 1-800-366-6888 • Voice: 1-800-366-6889 • NDCommerce.com

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ATTACHMENTS

At-Risk of Homelessness Definition - Attachment A

Homelessness Definition – Attachment B

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This document provides a brief overview of the ESG-CV Program and the **process to apply for funds.** Applicants should review the ESG Interim Rule found at <u>24 CFR Parts</u> <u>91and 576 and HUD CPD20-08 Notice</u> for complete program information. To the extent that anything contained in this document does not meet the requirements of the final ESG Program rule, to be published at a later date, such final rule or regulation will take precedence over this document.

WAIVERS AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR ESG-CV

Note: this is only highlights, please read the entire attached copy of HUD CPD 20-08 Notice

100% of the ESG-CV funds must be used to prevent, prepare for and respond the coronavirus.

100% of the ESG-CV funds must be expended by September 30, 2022. (August 31, 2022 for sub-recipients)

20% of the ESG-CV funds must be expended by September 30, 2021.

80% of the ESG-CV funds must be expended by March 31, 2022.

ESG-CV funds do not require a match.

The cap for Emergency Shelter & Street Outreach does not apply to ESG-CV. An applicant can expend as much as is needed to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus.

ESG-CV funds may be used for Temporary emergency shelter activities, however, there are limitations. (please refer to E. 3. a. of the attached HUD CPD-20-08 notice.) Temporary shelters can only be supported with ESG-CV funds until January 31, 2022.

ESG-CV funds may be used for training, hazard pay, handwashing stations & portable bathrooms, landlord incentives, volunteer incentives. (Please refer to E. 3 c, d, e, f, g of the HUD CPD 20-08 notice.)

Other activities – hotel/motel costs, helping current ESG program participants maintain housing, and legal services.

Housing Stability Case Management is waived.

Shelter and Housing Standards – the lead-based paint remediation requirements of 24 CFR 576.403 (a) applies to all shelters for which ESG-CV funds are used and all housing occupied by housing participants. The habitability requirements at 24 CFR 576.403 (b) do not apply to temporary emergency shelters that have been determined by State or local health officials to be necessary to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

Procurement – if the subrecipient deviates from the applicable procurement standards at 24 CFR.407 (c) and (f) and 2 CFR 200.317-200.326 when procuring goods and services, the subrecipient must establish alternative written procurement standards and document the alternative standard to safeguard against fraud, waste, and abuse.

Duplication of Benefits will apply to ESG-CV funds. Duplication of benefits occurs when federal financial assistance is provided to a person or entity through a program to address losses and the person or entity has received or would receive financial assistance for the same costs from any other source and the total received exceeds the total need.

Supportive Services – HUD strongly encourages supportive services when necessary, individual and families experiencing homelessness must not be required to receive treatment or perform other prerequisites as a condition to receive support from ESG-CV funds.

ESG-CV FUNDING LEVELS

North Dakota has been authorized \$1,673,841of ESG-CV1 and \$3,468,739 of ESG-CV2 funds for a total of \$5,142,580. Of this amount 10% can be used for administration and 2% for HMIS activities, leaving a total of \$4,525,471 in ESG-CV for eligible activities. Successful applicants may receive less ESG funds than requested based on the Selection Criteria beginning on page 20.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be federally recognized non-profits, units of local government, or housing authorities. Housing Authorities are only eligible for ESG-CV funds. Applicants must be in compliance with the <u>ESG Interim Rule</u>

<u>https://www.communityservices.nd.gov/uploads/10/ESGInterimRulesandRegulations.pdf</u> (Final Rule when published), found at 24 CFR Part 576, HUD CPD-20-08 notice, which is attached to this Action Plan, the State's ESG written standards, and applicable state and federal policies and procedures, including compliance with federal and state nondiscrimination laws.

By virtue of submitting an application, applicants agree to: adopt and consistently apply the State's written standards for the administration of the ESG program; and maintain standard accounting practices including internal controls and fiscal accounting procedures; track agency and program budgets by revenue sources and expenses; and have an available cash flow to effectively operate their programs since ESG-CV funding is provided on a

reimbursement basis.

Applicants with outstanding monitoring or audit findings issued by the Internal Revenue Service, HUD, or DCS are not eligible ESG applicants and will not be eligible to receive an allocation of ESG-CV funding. Applicants are encouraged to contact DCS to ensure no unresolved monitoring findings exist or to work to resolve any outstanding items.

Eligible applicants must be able to demonstrate prior experience serving individuals and households at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. Also, applicants must have staff with demonstrated expertise in case management skills.

Applicants will be required to utilize the HMIS and the State-wide Continuum of Care's centralized or coordinated assessment system. Domestic violence service providers must establish and operate a comparable database that collects client level data over time and can generate unduplicated aggregate reports based on the data.

STATUTORY DEFINITIONS

Emergency Solutions Grant statutory definitions can be found at <u>24 CFR Part 576.2</u>

ESG-CV Waivers can be found at HUD CPD Notice – <u>CPD-20-08</u> and are re-stated here:

Definitions

1. Definitions from 24 CFR 576.2. For purposes of ESG-CV funds, the definitions at 24 CFR 576.2 apply, except that:

a. At Risk of Homelessness. The CARES Act raised the income limit in paragraph (1)(i) of the "at risk of homelessness" definition at 24 CFR 576.2 from 30 percent of area median income to the Very Low-Income limit of the area, as determined by the Secretary. The entire definition of "at risk of homelessness," incorporating the higher income limit for ESG-CV activities, is included below for reference.

At Risk of Homelessness means

(i) an individual or family who:

(a) Has an annual income that does not exceed the Very Low-Income Limit of the area, as established for HUD's Section 8 and Public Housing programs at www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html;

(b) Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, *e.g.*, family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the "homeless" definition in 24 CFR 576.2; and

(c) Meets one of the following conditions:

(I) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;

(II) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;

(III) Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;

(IV) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals; (V) Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 persons reside per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;

(VI) Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or (VII) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan. (ii) A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under 24 CFR 576.2, but qualifies as "homeless" under section 387(3) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)), section 637(11) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832(11)), section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6)), section 330(h)(5)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)(5)(A)), section 3(m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(m)), or section 17(b)(15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)(15)); or

(iii) A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under 24 CFR 576.2, but qualifies as "homeless" under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)), and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that child or youth if living with her or him.

b. Local government and unit of general purpose local government mean a "unit of general purpose local government," as defined in 24 CFR 576.2 (i.e., any city, county, town, township, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State) and, as established by section 100261(1) of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21 Act), Public Law 112–141, includes:

(i) an instrumentality of a unit of general purpose local government, provided that the instrumentality is not a public housing agency, is established pursuant to legislation, and is designated by the chief executive of the general purpose local government to act on that government's behalf with regard to activities funded under title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; and

(ii) a combination of general purpose local governments, such as an association of governments that is recognized by HUD.

c. State means a "State" as defined in 24 CFR 576.2 (i.e., each of the several States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico); and, as provided by section 100261(2) of the MAP-21 Act, includes any instrumentality of any of the several States designated by the Governor to act on behalf of the State and does not include the District of Columbia;

2. Definitions not in 24 CFR 576.2.

a. The McKinney-Vento Act means the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq.).

b. Coronavirus means SARS–CoV–2 or another coronavirus with pandemic potential, as defined by section 23005 of the CARES Act.

c. ESG means, unless otherwise specified, the Emergency Solutions Grants Program whether funded through annual fiscal year (FY) appropriations or CARES Act funding. For example, a

program participant assisted using only FY2020 ESG funding and a program participant assisted using only ESG-CV funding are both ESG program participants.

d. ESG-CV means the Emergency Solutions Grants Program as funded by the CARES Act and governed by requirements HUD establishes in accordance with that Act. ESG-CV funds do not include annual ESG funds (e.g., FY 2020 ESG grant funds), although annual ESG funds may be used in accordance with the requirements established for purposes of ESG-CV funds as further described in Section IV of this Notice.

e. Temporary Emergency Shelter means any structure or portion of a structure, which is used for a limited period of time because of a crisis, such as a natural disaster or public health emergency, to provide shelter for individuals and families displaced from their normal place of residence or sheltered or unsheltered locations. Examples of temporary emergency shelters include:

(i) an overnight, daytime, or 24-hour shelter in which program participants are only provided a safe place to sleep, rest, bathe, and eat;

(ii) a shelter where one or more services are made available on-site, whether by shelter staff or contractors or through a memorandum of understanding with another subrecipient or service provider; and

(iii) a shelter designed to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families into permanent housing within a fixed period of time (e.g., within 12 months) and employs or contracts with one or more case managers or service providers to provide services as specified under sections

III.E.3.a.(i)(e) and III.E.3.a.(ii)(e) through (h).

f. Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to Coronavirus. To assist recipients in ensuring that an activity being paid for with ESG-CV funds is eligible, or determining whether annual ESG funding may follow the waivers and alternative requirements established in this Notice, recipients and subrecipients should consider the following:

- (i) Prevent...coronavirus means an activity designed to prevent the initial or further spread of the virus to people experiencing homelessness, people at risk of homelessness, recipient or subrecipient staff, or other shelter or housing residents. This includes providing Personal Protective Equipment to staff and program participants, paying for non-congregate shelter options such as hotels and motels, paying for handwashing stations and portable toilets for use by people living in unsheltered situations, and providing rapid re-housing or homelessness prevention assistance to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness (as applicable) to reduce their risk of contracting or further spreading the virus.
- (ii) Prepare for...coronavirus means an activity carried out by a recipient or subrecipient prior to or during a coronavirus outbreak in their jurisdiction to plan to keep people healthy and reduce the risk of exposure to coronavirus and avoid or slow the spread of disease. This includes updating written standards to prioritize people at severe risk of contracting coronavirus for shelter and housing consistent with fair housing and nondiscrimination requirements, adapting coordinated entry policies and procedures to account for social distancing measures or increased demand, developing a strategy and recruiting landlords to provide housing to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, training homeless providers on infectious disease prevention

and mitigation, and implementing a non-congregate shelter strategy to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

(iii) Respond to coronavirus means an activity carried out once coronavirus has spread to people experiencing homelessness, provider staff, or once individuals and families lose or are at risk of losing their housing as a result of the economic downturn caused by coronavirus. This includes transporting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to medical appointments, paying for shelter to isolate individuals who have contracted coronavirus from other program participants and people experiencing homelessness, providing rental assistance to those who are at risk of losing their housing, have already become homeless, or continue to experience homelessness due to the economic downturn caused by coronavirus, and providing hazard pay to recipient or subrecipient staff who put their own health at risk to continue to provide necessary services to individuals and families experiencing and risk of homelessness.

An additional waiver has been grant under the Homeless Definition <u>https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CPD-COVID-19-Waiver-3-Final-Clean.pdf</u> this also is restated here:

11. Homeless Definition - Temporary Stays in Institutions of 90 Days Less Requirement: The definition of homeless in 24 CFR 576.2 includes under paragraph (1)(iii) an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and has resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution, which is an interpretation of \$103(a)(4) of the McKinney-Vento Act which includes an individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided (emphasis added).

Citation: 24 CFR 576.2, definition of "homeless," (1)(iii)

Explanation: An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution are considered homeless per 24 CFR 576.2, definition of "homeless."

Justification: Recipients are reporting that program participants are residing in institutions for longer periods of time as a result of COVID-19 (e.g., longer time in jail due to a postponed court dates due to court closings or courts operating at reduced capacity and longer hospital stays when infected with COVID-19). Allowing someone who was residing in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation prior to entering the institution to maintain their homeless status while residing in an institution for longer than 90 days is necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by expanding housing options for people who were experiencing homelessness and institutionalized for longer than traditionally required due to COVID-19.

Applicability: An individual may qualify as homeless under paragraph (1)(iii) the homeless definition in 24 CFR 576.2 so long as he or she is exiting an institution where they resided for 120 days or less and resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution. This waiver is in effect until March 31, 2021.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS AND ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Emergency Solutions Grants will be utilized to provide services to homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless in the following eligible activities. Applicants should refer to 24 CFR Part 576.100 - 576.109 and Notice CPD-20-08 for further clarification, both are attached on the following eligible activities:

- Temporary Emergency Shelter;
- Volunteer Incentives;
- Street Outreach;
- Emergency Shelter;
- Rapid Re-housing Assistance and Homeless Prevention;
- Homeless Management Information System;
- Hazard Pay;
- Training;
- Landlord Incentives;
- Handwashing Stations & Portable Bathrooms;
- Hotel/Motel Costs;
- Administrative Activities.
- 1. **Temporary Emergency Shelter** Temporary Emergency Shelter: ESG-CV funds may be used for the costs of providing temporary emergency shelter, which means any structure or portion of a structure, which is used for a limited period of time because of a crisis, such as a natural disaster or public health emergency, to provide shelter for individuals and families displaced from their normal place of residence or sheltered or unsheltered locations. Examples of temporary emergency shelters include: an overnight, daytime, or 24-hour shelter in which program participants are only provided a safe place to sleep, rest, bathe, and eat; a shelter where one or more services are made available on-site, whether by shelter staff or contractors or through a memorandum of understanding with another subrecipient or service provider; and a shelter designed to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families into permanent housing within a fixed period of time (e.g., within 12 months) and employs or contracts with one or more case managers or service providers to provide services as specified under sections III.E.3.a.(i)(e) and III.E.3.a.(ii)(e) through (h). Temporary shelter funds should be used for shelters that are not currently being planned for long-term shelter use or need to demonstrate that the applicant has a plan to support the shelter beyond January 31, 2020.
- 2. Volunteer Incentives ESG-CV funds can also be used for the cost of providing reasonable incentives to volunteers (e.g., cash or gift cards) who have been and are currently helping to provide necessary street outreach, emergency shelter, essential services, and housing relocation and stabilization services during the coronavirus outbreak.

- 3. <u>Street Outreach (24 CFR Part 576.101)</u> Funds may be used for costs of providing essential services to reach out to unsheltered homeless; connect them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services; and provide urgent non-facility-based care to unsheltered homeless who are unwilling or unable to access emergency shelter, housing or an appropriate health facility. Eligible activities include the following:
 - a. Engagement Activities;
 - b. Case Management;
 - c. Emergency Health Services;
 - d. Emergency Mental Health Services;
 - e. Transportation; and
 - f. Services for Special Populations.
- 4. <u>Emergency Shelter Component (24 CFR Part 576.102)</u> Funds may be used for costs of providing essential services to individuals and households in emergency shelters, renovating buildings to be used as emergency shelters, and operating emergency shelters. The funds for the activity expire on January 31, 2022 and can only be used for the prevention, preparing for and responding to coronavirus. Eligible activities include the following:
 - a. Essential Services Essential services provided to individuals and households who are in emergency shelters can include case management, child care, education services, employment assistance and job training, outpatient health services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation, and services for special populations.
 - b. Renovation Activities Eligible costs include labor, materials, tools and other costs for renovation (including major rehabilitation or conversion of a building into an emergency shelter). The emergency shelter must be owned by a government entity or private nonprofit organization.
 - c. Shelter Operations Eligible costs are the costs of maintenance (including minor or routine repairs), insurance, utilities, rent, food, furnishing/appliances, and supplies necessary for the operation of the emergency shelter.

5. <u>Rapid Re-Housing Assistance -</u> ESG-CV funds may be used for the costs of providing housing relocation and stabilization services and short and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help individuals or families living in an emergency shelter or other place described as homeless in CFR 576.2 to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

Rapid Rehousing activities include: Services and assistance generally consist of short-term and medium-term rental assistance, rental arrears, rental application fees, security deposits, advance payment of last month's rent, utility deposits and payments, moving costs, housing search and placement, housing stability case management, mediation, legal services, and credit repair. For specific requirements and eligible costs, see 24 CFR 576.104, 576.105, and 576.106. All Rapid Rehousing funds must adhere to the limitation stated in the ESG-CV Program Notice that changes the timeline of medium-term rental assistance and states that: "medium-term is established as for more than 3 months but not more than 12 months."

i) The requirement at 24 CFR 576.105(c) limiting the total period of time for which any program participant may receive the services under paragraph (b) to 24 months [LKL1] during any 3-year period is waived solely for those program participants who reach their 24-month maximum assistance during the period beginning on the presumed start of this crisis, January 21, 2020 – the date the first confirmed case was reported in the United States, and ending 6 months from the date of publication of this Notice, provided that the services are only extended for these program participants for up to a maximum of an additional 6 months; and

(ii) The requirement at 24 CFR 576.106(a) limiting the total number of months a program participant can receive rental assistance to 24 months in a 3-year period is waived solely for those program participants who reach their 24-month maximum during the period beginning on the presumed start of this crisis, January 21, 2020 – the date the first confirmed case was reported in the United States, and ending 6 months from the date of publication of this Notice, provided that the rental assistance is only extended for these program participants for up to a maximum of an additional 6 months.

- 6. <u>HMIS Component (24 CFR 576.107)</u> ESG funds may be used to pay the costs of participating in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Costs include: hardware, software licenses or equipment; obtaining technical support; staff time for completing data entry and analysis; monitoring and reviewing data quality; HUD approved training; reporting; and coordinating and integrating the system. If an applicant is a domestic violence service provider it may use ESG funds to establish and operate a comparable database that collects client level data over time and generates unduplicated aggregate reports based on the data.
- 7. <u>Hazard Pay</u> As permitted by the CARES Act, funds may be used to pay hazard pay for recipient- or subrecipient-staff working directly to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Examples of recipient or subrecipient staff working directly in support of coronavirus response include emergency shelter intake staff, street outreach teams, emergency shelter maintenance staff, emergency shelter security staff, staff providing essential services (e.g., outpatient health or mental health, housing navigators), and staff in proximity to persons with coronavirus or working in locations with a high likelihood of contracting coronavirus.
- 8. <u>Training</u>- As permitted by the CARES Act, ESG-CV funds may be used for training on infectious disease prevention and mitigation for staff working directly to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and the use of funding shall not be considered administrative costs for purposes of the 10 percent cap. In addition, the limitations on eligible activities provided in section 415(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and 24 CFR part 576, subpart B are waived and alternative requirements are established to the extent necessary to authorize ESG-CV funds to be used for training on infectious disease prevention and mitigation for homeless assistance providers, including those who do not receive funding through the CARES Act, to help them best prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among persons who are

homeless or at risk of homelessness. These training costs are eligible as a standalone activity and are not to be charged to an activity under 24 CFR 576.101 to 24 CFR 576.109.

- 9. Landlord Incentives The limitations on eligible activities under section 415(a) of the McKinney-Vento Act and 24 CFR 576.105 are waived and alternative requirements are established to the extent necessary to authorize ESG-CV funds to be used under 24 CFR 576.105 to add the eligible cost of paying for landlord incentives as reasonable and necessary to obtain housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and at risk of homelessness. However, a recipient may not use ESG-CV funds to pay the landlord incentives set forth below in an amount that exceeds three times the rent charged for the unit. Waiving the limitation on eligible costs under housing relocation and stabilization services to pay for the costs of landlord incentives will increase the number of housing units available to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, especially in tight rental markets and obtaining and maintaining housing is critical to preventing the spread of coronavirus and helping mitigate the economic impact of the crisis. The limitation to three times the rent charged for each unit ensures enough ESG-CV funds remain available to provide other eligible activities necessary to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Eligible landlord incentive costs include: Signing bonuses equal to up to 2 months of rent; Security deposits equal to up to 3 months of rent; Paying the cost to repair damages incurred by the program participant not covered by the security deposit or that are incurred while the program participant is still residing in the unit; and, Paying the costs of extra cleaning or maintenance of a program participant's unit or appliances.
- 10. <u>Handwashing Stations & Portable Bathrooms</u> The limitations on eligible activities provided in section 415(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and 24 CFR part 576, subpart B are waived and alternative requirements are established to the extent necessary to authorize ESG-CV funds to be used under 24 CFR 576.101(a) for installing and maintaining handwashing stations and bathrooms (e.g., porta potties) in outdoor locations for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Allowing ESG-CV funds to pay for the costs of handwashing stations and bathroom facilities will help prevent the spread of coronavirus by providing people living in unsheltered locations regular access to bathrooms and the ability to wash their hands.
- 11. **Hotel/Motel Costs** As permitted under 24 CFR 576.102(a)(3), eligible costs include a hotel or motel voucher for homeless individuals and families where no appropriate emergency shelter is available. Additionally, the limitations on eligible activities provided in section 415(a) of the McKinney-Vento Act and 24 CFR part 576, subpart B are waived and alternative requirements are established to the extent necessary to authorize ESG-CV funds to be used for the following hotel or motel costs for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, receiving rapid re-housing assistance under the Continuum of Care (CoC) or ESG programs, receiving homelessness prevention under the ESG program, or residing in permanent supportive housing: The recipient or subrecipient may pay for a hotel or motel room directly or through a hotel or motel voucher. Additionally, funds can be used to pay for cleaning of hotel and motel rooms used by program participants as well as to repair damages caused by program participants to secure hotel and motel rooms more quickly to be available when needed to prevent the spread of coronavirus (for example, when a program participant

needs to isolate to keep from spreading the virus to other shelter occupants or household members).

12. Administrative Activities - The administrative costs related to planning and execution of ESG-CV activities. This does not include staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out eligible activities. Each applicant can apply for up to 4% of the amount requested for projects. Beware that administrative funds must be tracked with timecards and be inclusive of all time spent on all projects and activities that the applicant carry-outs.

MATCHING FUNDS

Matching funds for ESG-CV funds is not required.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Consultation with the Continuum of Care. As provided under the CARES Act, ESG-CV funds are not subject to the CoC consultation requirements at 24 CFR 576.400(a). and Coordination with other targeted homeless services. To ensure funds are deployed quickly to address the immediate public health crisis and prevent the spread of coronavirus, the coordination requirements at 24 CFR 576.400(b) are waived.
- 2. System and Program Coordination with Mainstream Resources To ensure funds are deployed quickly to address the immediate public health crisis and prevent the spread of coronavirus, the coordination requirements at 24 CFR 576.400(c) are waived.
- 3. Centralized or Coordinated Assessment, Written Standards for Administering Assistance, and HMIS. With respect to costs incurred between January 21, 2020 and June 30, 2020 that are allowable under this Notice but not under 24 CFR Part 576, the requirements to use the CoC's centralized or coordinated assessment under 24 CFR 576.400(d), administer the assistance in accordance with written standards as provided under 24 CFR 576.400(e), and participate in HMIS under Section 416(f) of the McKinney-Vento Act and 24 CFR 576.400(f) are waived for the first 60 days of the project's operation. HUD has determined this waiver is necessary to allow jurisdictions to quickly implement activities necessary to prevent the spread of coronavirus and account for the time needed to integrate these activities into centralized or coordinated assessment and HMIS, and revise the written standards for administering assistance to account for the new program flexibilities.
- 4. Written Standards and Procedures Applicants shall adopt and consistently apply DCS's written standards for providing ESG. See DCS Website.
- 5. Participation in Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Applicants are required to collect and enter data into the HMIS system for all individuals and households served with ESG funds. Domestic violence service providers are exempt from participating in the HMIS system, however, they must establish and operate a comparable database that collects client level data overtime and can generate unduplicated aggregate reports on the data.
- 6. Homeless participation –
- a. Unless the recipient is a State, the recipient must provide for the participation of not less than one homeless individual or formerly homeless individual on the board of directors or other equivalent policy-making entity of the recipient, to the extent that the entity considers and makes policies and decisions regarding any facilities, services, or other assistance that receive funding under Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).
- b. If the recipient is unable to meet requirement under paragraph (a), it must instead develop and implement a plan to consult with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering and making policies and decisions regarding any facilities, services, or other assistance that receive funding under Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). The plan

must be included in the annual action plan required under 24 CFR 91.220.

- c. To the maximum extent practicable, the recipient or subrecipient must involve homeless individuals and families in constructing, renovating, maintaining, and operating facilities assisted under ESG, in providing services assisted under ESG, and in providing services for occupants of facilities assisted under ESG. This involvement may include employment or volunteer services.
- 7. Faith-based activities
 - a. Organizations that are religious or faith-based are eligible, on the same basis as any other organization, to receive ESG funds. Neither the Federal Government nor a State or local government receiving funds under ESG shall discriminate against an organization on the basis of the organization's religious character or affiliation.
 - b. Organizations that are directly funded under the ESG program may not engage in inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization as part of the programs or services funded under ESG. If an organization conducts these activities, the activities must be offered separately, in time or location, from the programs or services funded under ESG, and participation must be voluntary for program participants.
 - c. Any religious organization that receives ESG funds retains its independence from Federal, State, and local governments, and may continue to carry out its mission, including the definition, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs, provided that the religious organization does not use direct ESG funds to support any inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization. Among other things, faith-based organizations may use space in their facilities to provide ESG-funded services, without removing religious art, icons, scriptures, or other religious symbols. In addition, an ESG-funded religious organization retains its authority over its internal governance, and the organization may retain religious terms in its organization's name, select its board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its organization's mission statements and other governing documents.
 - d. An organization that receives ESG funds shall not, in providing ESG assistance, discriminate against a program participant or prospective program participant on the basis of religion or religious belief.
 - e. ESG funds may not be used for the rehabilitation of structures to the extent that those structures are used for inherently religious activities. ESG funds may be used for the rehabilitation of structures only to the extent that those structures are used for conducting eligible activities under the ESG program. Where a structure is used for both eligible and inherently religious activities, ESG funds may not exceed the cost of those portions of the rehabilitation that are attributable to eligible activities in accordance with the cost accounting requirements applicable to ESG funds. Sanctuaries, chapels, or other rooms that an ESG-funded religious congregation uses as its principal place of worship, however, are ineligible for funded improvements under the program. Disposition of real property after the term of the grant, or any change in use of the property during the term

of the grant, is subject to government-wide regulations governing real property disposition (*see*24 CFR parts 84 and 85).

- f. If the recipient or a subrecipient that is a local government voluntarily contributes its own funds to supplement federally funded activities, the recipient or subrecipient has the option to segregate the Federal funds or commingle them. However, if the funds are commingled, this section applies to all of the commingled funds.
- 8 Evaluation of Program Participants Applicants must conduct an initial evaluation to determine eligibility of each individual or household's eligibility for ESG assistance and the type of assistance necessary to regain stability in permanent housing. These evaluations must be conducted in accordance with the centralized assessment system and DCS's written standards.
- 9. Case Management As required by 24 CFR 576.401(a) and (c), the recipient and its subrecipient must determine the available services and assistance that each ESG-CV program participant will need to achieve independent living and avoid further housing instability or homelessness, and the recipient and its subrecipient must assist each ESG-CV program participant, as needed, to obtain those services and assistance. However, HUD is making an across-the-board waiver of the ESG requirement in 24 CFR 576.401(e)(1) that housing stability case managers to meet not less than once per month with each program participant receiving homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing assistance. HUD is waiving this requirement for all program participants receiving this assistance after qualifying as homeless, in order to be consistent with the CARES Act prohibition stated in section III.F.10. Additionally, HUD is waiving the requirement for all program participants receiving assistance after qualifying as at risk of homelessness, in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus and reduce the barriers to providing the homelessness prevention that is necessary to respond to coronavirus. This waiver provides additional regulatory relief beyond the waiver HUD made available on March 31, 2020 for annual ESG funds and extended on May 22, 2020 for annual ESG funds and ESG-CV funds, by lifting the 3-month limitation established May 22, 2020, and making the waiver of 24 CFR 576.401(e)(1) apply throughout the period the recipient or subrecipient uses funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus

10. Short-Term and Medium-Term Rental Assistance -

(i) 24 CFR 576.106(a)(2), where medium-rent is defined as "for more than 3 months but not more than 24 months of rent" is waived and an alternative requirement is established where medium-term is established as for more than 3 months but not more than 12 months. This alternative requirement will allow more households to receive rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention assistance, which is necessary to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

(ii) The requirement at 24 CFR 576.106(d) that prohibits rental assistance where the rent for the unit exceeds the Fair Market Rent established by HUD, as provided under 24 CFR Part 888, is waived so long as the rent complies with HUD's standards of rent reasonableness, as established under 24 CFR 982.507. Waiving this requirement will allow recipients to help program participants move quickly into housing or retain their existing housing, which is especially critical at reducing the spread of coronavirus and responding to coronavirus. This waiver provides additional flexibility beyond the waiver made available to the ESG Program on March 31, 2020 and extended to ESG-CV funds on May 22, 2020 by permitting ESG recipients to provide rental assistance for program participants, whose

current rent exceeds FMR and by allowing recipients to use this waiver as needed throughout the period they are providing rental assistance to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

- 11. Program Accessibility Applicants must operate each existing program or activity receiving federal financial assistance so that the program or activity, when viewing in its entirety is readily accessible for persons with disabilities.
- 12. Housing Standards for Emergency Shelters and Permanent Housing The lead-based paint remediation requirements of 24 CFR 576.403(a) apply to all shelters for which ESG-CV funds are used and all housing occupied by program participants. The habitability requirements at 24 CFR 576.403(b) do not apply to temporary emergency shelters that have been determined by State or local health officials to be necessary to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. However, recipients and subrecipients must still comply with nondiscrimination and applicable accessibility requirements, including requirements under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and their implementing regulations. See also 24 CFR 576.407(a). All other shelters and housing for which ESG-CV funds must meet the applicable standards in 24 CFR 576.403(b) and 576.403(c).
- 13. Lead-Based Paint Requirements Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act applies to all shelters assisted under ESG-CV program and all housing occupied by program participants. For emergency rental assistance that is for less than 100 days, the Lead Safe rule does not apply. Beyond the 100 days, all applicants are required to conduct a Lead-Based Paint inspection on all units receiving assistance under the rapid re-housing AND homelessness prevention components if the unit is built before 1978 and a child under the age of six or a pregnant woman resides in the unit.
 - 14. Environmental Review Requirements- Except as otherwise provided in this notice for temporary emergency shelters that have been determined by State or local health officials to be necessary to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, "responsible entities" (as defined in 24 CFR 58.2) must assume all of the responsibilities with respect to environmental review, decision making, and action required under 24 CFR Part 58. Also, as required by 24 CFR 58.4(a), when a State distributes funds to a responsible entity, the State must provide for appropriate procedures by which these responsible entities will evidence their assumption of environmental responsibilities. In accordance with these requirements and section 100261(3) of the MAP-21 Act, 24 CFR 576.407(d) does not apply. NOTE: The State will likely the be responsible entity for ESG-CV funds.
 - 15. Environmental regulations at 24 CFR 58.22 prohibit ESG recipients and any other participant in the development process from committing HUD or non-HUD funds to a project until the environmental compliance review process has been successfully completed or until receipt of the Authority to Use Grant Funds, if applicable. In addition, until the environmental compliance review process has been successfully completed or until receipt of the Authority to Use Grant Funds, neither a recipient nor any participant in the development process may commit non-HUD funds on or undertake an activity or project if the activity or project would have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives.

Emergency Environmental Review Procedures: HUD's environmental review regulations in 24 CFR Part 58 include two provisions that may be relevant to environmental review procedures for activities to prevent, prepare for, or respond to coronavirus. The first is 24 CFR § 58.34(a)(10), which provides an exemption for certain activities undertaken in response to a national or locally declared public health emergency. The second is a streamlined public notice and comment period in the regulation at 24 CFR 58.33, which may apply in some cases for emergency activities undertaken to prevent, prepare for, or respond to coronavirus. The application of these two provisions following a presidentially-declared or locally-declared public health emergency are discussed in the Notice, *Guidance on conducting environmental review pursuant to 24 Part 58 for 18 activities undertaken in response to the public health emergency as a result of COVID-19* (available at: https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/2020-07cpdn.pdf).

17. Confidentiality – All applicants must develop and implement procedures to ensure the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual or household provided with ESG assistance.

18. Termination of Housing Assistance (576.402) – Applicants may terminate assistance to a program participant who violates program requirements. Applicants may also resume assistance to a program participant whose assistance was previously terminated. In terminating assistance to a program participant, applicants must provide a formal process that recognizes the rights of individuals receiving assistance to due process of law. This process, at a minimum, must:

- a. Recognize individual rights;
- b. Allow termination in only the most severe case;
- c. Provide a written notice to the program participant, with clear statement of reasons for termination;
- d. Provide a review of the decision, in which the program participant is given the opportunity to present written or oral objections before a person other than the person (or a subordinate of that person) who made or approved the termination decision; and
- e. Provide a prompt written notice of the final decision to the program participant.

19.Recordkeeping – All applicants must keep any records and make any reports (including those pertaining to race, ethnicity, gender, and disability status data) that HUD may require within the timeframe specified.

20. Sanctions – If DCS determines that an applicant is not complying with the requirements of the ESG-CV Plan or other applicable federal or state laws, DCS will take appropriate actions, which may include:

- a. Issue a warning letter that further failure to comply with such requirements will result in a more serious sanction;
- b. Direct the applicant to cease incurring costs with grantfunds;

- c. Require that some or all of the grant amounts be repaid to DCS; or
- d. Reduce (de-obligate) the level of funds the applicant would otherwise be entitled to receive; or
- e. Elect to make the applicant ineligible for future DCS funding.

Any ESG funds that become available to DCS as a result of a sanction or voluntary return by the applicant, will be made available (as soon as practicable) to other eligible applicants for use within the ESG Program.

21. Conflicts of Interest – The availability of any type or amount of ESG-CV assistance may not be conditioned on an individual's or household's acceptance or occupancy of emergency shelter or housing owned by the applicant, or a parent or subsidiary of the applicant. No applicant may, with respect to individuals or households occupying housing owned by the applicant, or any parent or subsidiary of the applicant, carry out the initial evaluation required under <u>24 CFR Part 576.401</u> or administer homelessness prevention assistance under <u>24 CFR Part 576.103</u>.

For procurement of goods and services, the applicant must comply with the codes of conduct and conflict of interest requirements under <u>24 CFR Part 95.36</u> (for governments) and <u>24 CFR Part 84.42</u> (for private nonprofit organizations).

22. Monitoring - DCS is responsible for monitoring all ESG activities to ensure program requirements established by HUD and DCS are met. Monitoring will consist of site visits to applicant's place of business if possible or virtual visits and or pictures, if appropriate, and review of all reimbursement requests. DCS will also provide support and technical assistance, as needed.

Additional monitoring of applicants may be conducted by HUD's office of Community Planning and Development; HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Program, or any other applicable federal agency. These agencies will be monitoring the ESG program nationwide to determine compliance with federal program requirements.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Each applicant needs to complete the 2019 ESG-CV application, which can be found on the Division of Community Services website. <u>https://www.communityservices.nd.gov/communitydevelopment/Programs/Emergen</u> cySolutionsGrantsESG/

Applications are due by close of business January 22, 2020.

Applications should be mailed to:

ESG-CV Application North Dakota Department of Commerce PO Box 2057 Bismarck ND 58502-2057

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications which show that 100% of the ESG-CV funds will be used to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus will be given priority. Total points allotted equal up to 100 points. <u>ESG-CV Application</u>.

ESG-CV will be awarded based upon the following:

1. Demonstrated need for the funding. - 30 points possible

30 points will be given if the need for funding was clear and detailed

15 points will be given if the need description lacks some detail

0 points will be given if the need is unclear and/or insufficient

2. Plan for distribution of the funds in an effective and efficient manner. 20 points possible

20 points will be given if the plan is clear and reasonable

10 points will be given if the plan lacks details for some or all of the proposed activities

0 points will be given if the plan has an unreasonable timeline for distribution of funds

3. Explain the effect the coronavirus has had on your agency. (ie – in-kind donations, volunteers, fund raising, increase in need for services, increased expenses). 10 points possible

10 points will be given if the effects on the agency are thoroughly explained

5 points will be given if the detail is lacking in the explanation

0 points will be given if no detail is provided

4. Work in communities with higher needs as defined by COVID-19 outbreaks. 10 points possible

10 points will be given for activities taking place in communities with a higher need

5 points will be given for some activities taking place in communities with a higher need

0 points will be given for no activities taking place in communities with a higher need

5. Explain your plan to expend funds by the following deadlines – 20% of the amount requested must be expended by 9/20/2021, 80% of the amount request must be expended by 3/31/2022 and 100% by 8/31/2022. 30 points possible

30 points will be given for a clear and decisive plan to expend funds by the deadline dates

15 points will be given if the plan lacks details and timeline deadlines

0 points will be given if the plan is not clear and/or insufficient

When making final selections, the review committee may make a grant award for less than the amount applied for or for fewer than all of the activities identified in the application, based on the demand for grant amounts, the extent to which the respective activities address the needs of the individuals and households, and the reasonableness of the costs proposed. The review committee reserves the right to award ESG-CV funds to any applicant or deny ESG-CV funds for any applicant if it determines, in its sole discretion, the project is unacceptable based on, but not limited to the following:

- 1. The applicant has not demonstrated capacity to administer the ESG Program, or
- 2. The applicant's (including any related party's) prior insufficient administration of DCS programs, including ESG, which may have resulted in monitoring findings.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Upon project selection, an award letter and financial agreement will be forwarded to each applicant detailing a description of the activities funded, and award conditions. Execution of the financial agreement is to be completed by a representative of the applicant and the DCS.

Grant funds will be considered obligated once the grant agreement has been signed by the applicant. A grant agreement will be sent under separate cover detailing the applicant's requirements and responsibilities. The applicant will be required to sign and return the grant

agreement to DCS. It should be noted that quarterly reports will be required by each sub-recipient as follows:

October 1 to December 31 - Report is due January 20 January 1 to March 31, 2021 – Report is due April 30 April 1 to June 30 – Report is due July 30 July 1 to September 30 – Report is due October 30

Please note that if sub-recipients do not submit their reports, the State reserves the right to withhold payments.

The grant agreement will indicate the activities and the corresponding approved funding amounts by category. An approved Request for Amendment is needed from DCS to vary from the funding amounts and categories as specified in the executed grant agreement.

Applicants must expend DCS funds for eligible activities within the grant period. The grant period will not extend past 8/31/2022.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Payment of ESG-CV funds will be completed as a reimbursement. Requests for payment must be received by DCS at least monthly or more frequently as needed. Requests must be submitted in a format approved by DCS, and must include a detailed breakdown of expenses incurred and ESG-CV funds requested. Copies of all expenses and documentation of payment must be submitted for verification purposes. Lack of documentation or explanation may result in a delay in payment. Payment will be used to measure expenditure deadlines on Page 3. If expenditure deadlines are not met, funds may be de-obligated.

ATTACHMENT A

Definitions from 24 CFR Part 576.2 apply except that:

At Risk of Homelessness - The CARES Act raised the income limit in paragraph (1)(i) of the "at risk of homelessness" definition at 24 CFR 576.2 from 30 percent of area median income to the Very Low-Income limit of the area, as determined by the Secretary. The entire definition of "at risk of homelessness," incorporating the higher income limit for ESG-CV activities, is included below for reference.

At Risk of Homelessness means

(i) an individual or family who:

(a) Has an annual income that does not exceed the Very Low-Income Limit of the area, as established for HUD's Section 8 and Public Housing programs at www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html;

(b) Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, *e.g.*, family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the "homeless" definition in 24 CFR 576.2; and

(c) Meets one of the following conditions:

(I) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;

(II) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;

(III) Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;

(IV) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;(V) Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 persons reside per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;

(VI) Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or (VII) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan.

(ii) A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under 24 CFR 576.2, but qualifies as "homeless" under section 387(3) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)), section 637(11) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832(11)), section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6)), section 330(h)(5)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)(5)(A)), section 3(m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(m)), or section 17(b)(15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)(15)); or

(iii) A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under 24 CFR 576.2, but qualifies as "homeless" under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)), and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that child or youth if living with her or him.

ATTACHMENT B



CRITERIA FOR DEFINING HOMELESS	Category 1	Literally Homeless	 (1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
	Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	 (2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that: (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
	Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	 (3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who: (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
	Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	 (4) Any individual or family who: (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (ii) Has no other residence; <u>and</u> (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing



RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS	Category 1	Literally Homeless	 Written observation by the outreach worker; <u>or</u> Written referral by another housing or service provider; <u>or</u> Certification by the individual or head of household seeking assistance stating that (s)he was living on the streets or in shelter; For individuals exiting an institution—one of the forms of evidence above <u>and</u>: discharge paperwork <u>or</u> written/oral referral, <u>or</u>
	Category 2	lmminent Risk of Homelessness	 A court order resulting from an eviction action notifying the individual or family that they must leave; <u>or</u> For individual and families leaving a hotel or motel—evidence that they lack the financial resources to stay; <u>or</u> A documented and verified oral statement; <u>and</u> Certification that no subsequent residence has been identified; <u>and</u> Self-certification or other written documentation that the individual lack the financial resources and support necessary to obtain permanent housing
	Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	 Certification by the nonprofit or state or local government that the individual or head of household seeking assistance met the criteria of homelessness under another federal statute; and Certification of no PH in last 60 days; and Certification by the individual or head of household, and any available supporting documentation, that (s)he has moved two or more times in the past 60 days; and Documentation of special needs or 2 or more barriers
	Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	 For victim service providers: An oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance which states: they are fleeing; they have no subsequent residence; and they lack resources. Statement must be documented by a self-certification or a certification by the intake worker. For non-victim service providers: Oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance that they are fleeing. This statement is documented by a self-certification or by the caseworker. Where the safety of the individual or family is not jeopardized, the oral statement must be verified; and Certification by the individual or head of household that no subsequent residence has been identified; and Self-certification, or other written documentation, that the individual or family lacks the financial resources and support networks to obtain other permanent housing.