



SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2011-12 ACTION PLAN EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT ALLOCATION SUMMARY

On December 1, 2011, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) notified cities that receive Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program funds about the eligibility to receive additional FY 2011-12 ESG funds to carry out the new activities. This second allocation is the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program funding, which will replace the Emergency Shelter Grant. The City of Austin plans to apply for \$185,896 in additional grant funds made available to through HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant program funds authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act). In order to apply and to receive these funds, the City of Austin must amend the current FY 2011-12 Action Plan.

HUD Guidelines from ESG presentations:

- "HUD strongly encourages jurisdictions to target new funds toward assisting individuals living on the streets or emergency shelters."
- "Effective Rapid Rehousing can transition people out of homelessness quickly and decrease the overall number of people that are homeless in the community."
- "Rapid Rehousing 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."

City of Austin Allocation for Emergency Solutions Grant

Of the \$185,896 newly allocated for the Emergency Solutions Grant, the City of Austin will allocate all funds in compliance with program guidelines released through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

- \$132,218 for the ESG Rapid Rehousing Program in the category of Rapid Rehousing – Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services for homeless individuals who are frequent users of public systems including the Downtown Austin Community Court and Austin Resource Center for the Homeless.
- \$31,472 for expenses related to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless and Downtown Austin Community Court to comply with increased ESG requirements and coordinate services for the ESG Rapid Rehousing program.
- \$22,206 for Administration of the new funding. The new allocation allows grantees to request funds for up to 7.5% of the total 2011-2013 allocation.

City of Austin Program Objectives for new Emergency Solutions Grant funding:

- Shift Shelter services from short-term recurrent interventions to long-term housing solutions.
- Create coordinated shelter intake system in HMIS between FrontSteps Arch and Salvation Army Pathways contracts and implement a scan card system.
- Implement funding with full transparency and achievement of stated outcomes and benefits.

City of Austin ESG Rapid Rehousing Program:

The City of Austin is expected to submit documentation regarding the Substantial Amendment for Emergency Solutions Grant program funding to HUD no later than May 14, 2012. The City of Austin's ESG Rapid Rehousing programs will have one primary goal, to rapidly re-house individuals experiencing homelessness from the downtown service providers as quickly as possible. Federal assistance focuses on housing stabilization; linking program participants to community resources and mainstream benefits; and developing a plan for preventing future housing instability. It is not intended to provide long-term support.

Federally eligible services include financial assistance, housing relocation and stabilization, and data collection. The program plan will include staff located at the Downtown Austin Community Court including an ESG Rapid Rehousing specialist/case worker for outreach, intake and housing related case management; and a housing locator to find apartments and work with landlords; mediation between landlords and tenants; and data management.

Public Input

The public is invited to provide input at the following public hearing:

- **4:00 PM Thursday, April 12, 2012:** Before the Austin City Council at City Hall, City Council Chambers, 301 W. Second Street

The public may also review a summary of the Substantial Amendment from March 16 through April 16, 2012, on the City's web site at www.austintexas.gov/housing or at the following community locations:

- Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 East 7th Street (Central)
- East Austin Neighborhood Center, 211 Comal (East)
- Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department, 1000 East 11th Street, Suite 200 (East)
- Rosewood-Zaragosa Neighborhood Center, 2800 Webberville Road (East)
- St. John's Neighborhood Center, 7500 Blessing (North East)
- AIDS Services of Austin, 7215 Cameron Road (North)
- Housing Authority of the City of Austin, 1124 S IH 35 (South)
- South Austin Neighborhood Center, 2508 Durwood (South)
- Pleasant Hill Library Branch, 211 East William Cannon (South)

Written comments may be submitted until 5 p.m. on March 16, 2012. Please include a name, address, and phone number.

Mail to:

City of Austin - NHCD

Attn: Patricia Bourenane

PO Box 1088

Austin, Texas 78767

Email: NHCD@austintexas.gov

For more information concerning the Substantial Amendment, City staff may be reached at 974-3100 (voice) or 974-3102 (TDD) Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.

 For assistance please call 974-2210 OR 974-2445 TDD.