The Emergency <u>Solutions</u> Grants (ESG) Program: An Introductory Overview

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Webinar Format, Materials & Evaluation

- Webinar will last approximately 1.5 hours.

- A recorded version of this can be found on HUD's Homelessness Resource Exchange at http://hudhre.info after November 28, 2011.

- Feedback survey will be e-mailed following this webinar.

Submitting Questions in the Webinar

- Audience members are muted due to the high number of participants.

- If you have technical difficulty with the audio or video portions of this Webcast, try:

    - Logging off, then logging in again

    - Requesting TA through the "questions" function in the "Go To Webinar" toolbar.

Submitting Questions in the Webinar

- To pose a question for the ESG Resource Advisors during this webinar, use the "Questions" function in the "GoToWebinar" toolbar.

- Many questions will be answered in subsequent webinars and in other materials to be posted on the HRE.

- ESG resource advisors will only have time to answer some questions.

Submitting Questions After the Webinar

- If you have a question that is not answered during the webinar, you may submit it to HUD's Virtual Help Desk at http://hudhre.info/helpdesk.

  – Select appropriate sub-topic

- How will we refer to the "original" and "amended" ESG programs, since they have the same acronym?
  - **Original ESG**: "Emergency <u>Shelter</u> Grants program" will be spelled out
  - **Amended ESG**: "Emergency <u>Solutions</u> Grants" program will adopt the acronym "ESG"

"Overview" Webinar

- This Webinar provides <u>high-level overview and introductory </u>information only.

You will need more detailed information from the statute, ESG regulation, and other HUD guidance documents to successfully plan and operate your program!

- Additional information will be available through:
  – Guides and tools on HUDHRE.info
  – Additional webinars already scheduled

Webinar Objectives

Upon completing this webinar, you will be able to:

- Describe ESG's components, activities, and basic program requirements

- Identify where additional ESG-related information and tools will be made available

- Identify major actions needed, and questions to answer, as you begin to implement ESG locally

What Will Be Covered

- Purpose of the ESG program

- Explanation of interim rulemaking

- ESG program components and activities

- Basic ESG program requirements

- Actions needed to begin implementing ESG

- Implementation resources (e.g., webinars, tools on the HRE, ESG Virtual Help Desk)

Priorities of the Interim ESG Program

- Broaden existing emergency shelter and homelessness prevention activities.

- Emphasize Rapid Re-Housing.

- Help people quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.

- Enhance alignment of ESG regulations with other HUD programs – including CDBG, HOME, and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

- Support more coordinated and effective data collection, performance measurement, and program evaluation.

- *Proposed rule* – the regulation is published for public comment only

- *Interim rule* –the regulation is published for effect and for public comment through one publication

- *Final rule* – the regulation is published for effect

Status of Regulatory Process

	Proposed	Interim	Final
Definition of Homeless	✓ April 20, 2010		✓ Posted November 15, 2011
Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG)		✓ Posted November 15, 2011	
Consolidated Plan Amendments		✓ Posted November 15, 2011	
HMIS	✓ Posted TBD		

Emergency Shelter/Solutions Grants

	Amount	Applicable Regulation
First Allocation	$160 million	Emergency **Shelter** Grants
Second Allocation	$90 million	Emergency **Solutions** Grants
Total FY2011 Allocation	**$250 million**	

* The FY2011 Appropriation directed that HUD fund the ESG program for <u>at least</u> $225 million
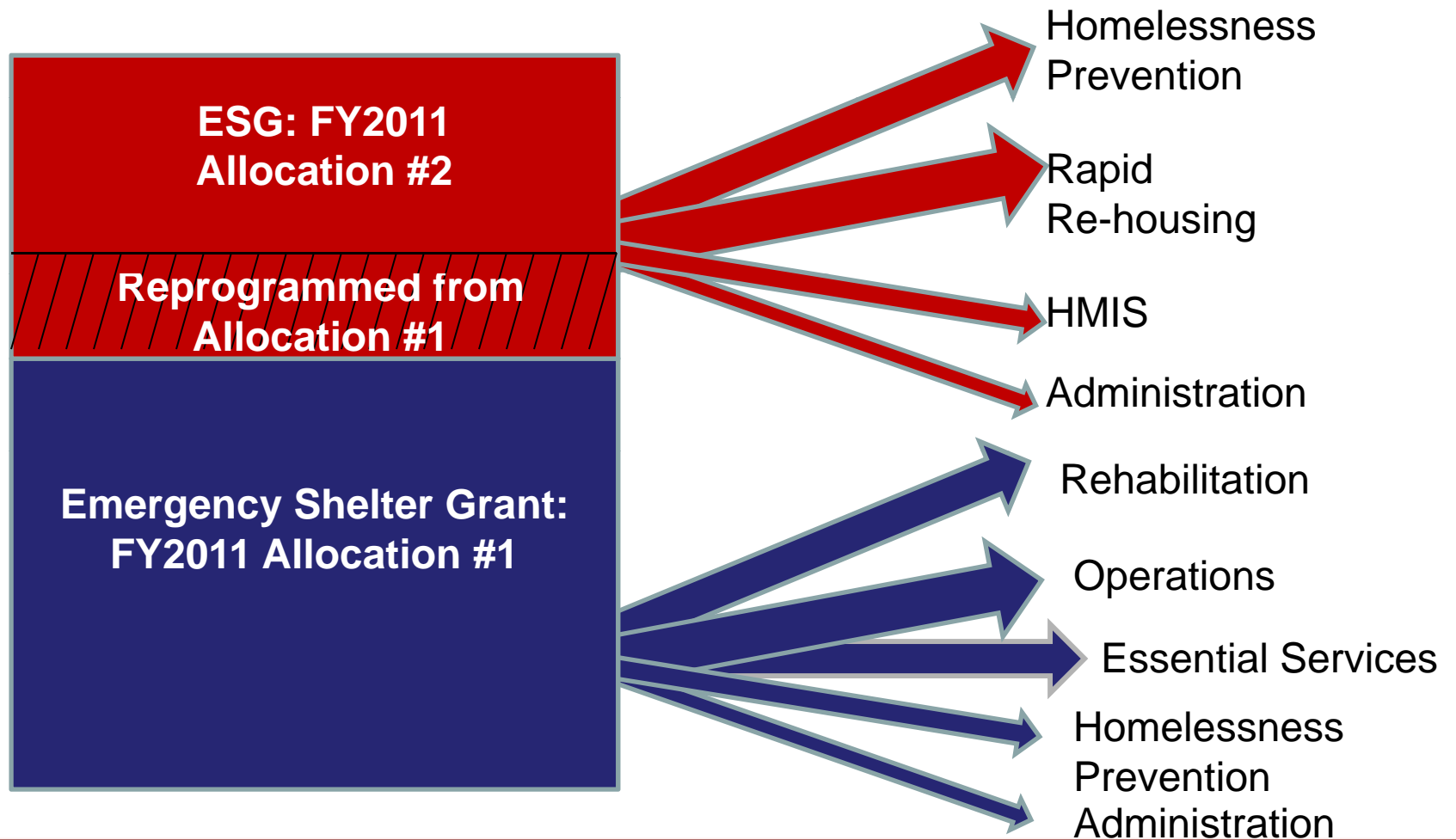
Consolidated Plan Requirements

- Recipients must complete a substantial amendment to the consolidated plan for:

  - The second FY 2011 allocation
  - Any reprogrammed funds from the initial FY 2011 allocation

Any funds that are reprogrammed from the initial FY 2011 allocation are subject to the amended ESG regulation

Successful implementation will depend upon:

- Understanding the new regulations

- Designing and implementing new programs effectively, building on experience operating the Emergency <u>Shelter</u> Grants program and HPRP

- Cultivating effective collaboration between ESG recipients and their Continuums of Care (CoCs)

ESG Program Components and Activities

5 Components & Administration

Component	Serving…	
	Those who are Homeless	**Those who are at risk of Homelessness**
1. Street Outreach	✓	
2. Emergency Shelter	✓	
3. Homelessness Prevention		✓
4. Rapid Re-housing	✓	
	Collecting Data On…	
5. Homeless Management Information System (**HMIS**)	✓	✓
Administration		

- Allows all interested parties to track and report use of funds against ESG program objectives, such as:
  - Rapidly re-housing homeless persons
  - Preventing homelessness
- Promotes reporting consistency with other homeless assistance programs, such as CoC and Rural Housing Stability (RHS)

- Serves unsheltered homeless persons

- <u>Essential Services</u> include street outreach services for:
    - Engagement
    - Case management
    - Emergency health and mental health services
    - Transportation
    - Services for special populations*

*Special Populations include Homeless Youth, Homeless Persons with HIV/AIDS, and Homeless Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking.

- Serves people staying in emergency shelters

- <u>Essential Services</u> include:
  - Case management
  - Child care, education, employment, and life skills services
  - Legal services
  - Health, mental health, and substance abuse services
  - Transportation
  - Services for special populations

- <u>Shelter</u> activities include:
  - Renovation (including major rehab or conversion)
  - Operations (e.g., maintenance, utilities, furniture, food)

Street Outreach (unsheltered homeless persons)	Emergency Shelter Services (sheltered homeless persons)
Engagement	
Case Management	Case Management
	Child Care
	Educational Services
	Employment Assistance / Training
Emergency Health Care	Outpatient Health Services
	Legal Services
	Life Skills Training
Emergency Mental Health Care	Mental Health Services
Services for Special Populations	Services for Special Populations
	Substance Abuse Treatment
Transportation	Transportation

Street Outreach + Emergency Shelter Funding Ceiling

- Street outreach and emergency shelter expenditures are capped

- Combined street outreach and emergency shelter expenditures from each fiscal year's ESG grant cannot exceed the <u>greater of</u>:

  — 60% of that fiscal year's total ESG grant award

  — The amount of FY 2010 grant funds committed to street outreach and emergency shelter activities

Quiz: Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter

1. Essential services for the Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter Components are identical to ensure consistency across components.

True	False

2. Emergency Shelter funds <u>cannot</u> be used to both renovate and operate emergency shelters.

True	False

3. Homelessness Prevention Component

- Available to persons:
  - Below 30% of AMI
  - Homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

- Can be used:
  - To prevent an individual or family from becoming homeless
  - To help an individual or family regain stability in current housing or other permanent housing

- Eligible activities:
  - Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services
  - Short- and Medium-Term Rental Assistance

- Available to those who <u>are literally homeless</u>

- Can be used:

  - To help a homeless individual or family <u>move into permanent housing</u> and achieve housing <u>stability</u>

- Eligible activities:

  - Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services

  - Short- and Medium-Term Rental Assistance

Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services

Allowable activities for both Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing components:

Financial Assistance*

- Moving costs
- Rent application fees
- Security deposit
- Last month's rent

Services

- Housing search / placement
- Housing stability case management
- Mediation and legal services

*No financial assistance to a household for a purpose and time period supported by another public source.

Allowable activities for both Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing components:

Rental Assistance

- **Definition:**
  - Short-Term = up to 3 months
  - Medium-Term = 4 to 24 months

- **Duration:** Up to 24 months of rental assistance during any 3-year period, <u>including</u> one-time payment for up to 6 months of rent arrears on the tenant's portion of the rent

- **Type:** Tenant-based or project-based

Standards for Both Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Components:

- FMR limits

- Rent reasonableness

- Minimum habitability standards

- Rental assistance agreement and lease

- No rental assistance to a household receiving rental assistance from another public source for same time period (except a one-time payment of up to 6 months of arrears)

1. Both Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing provide for rental assistance and relocation/stabilization services.

True	False

2. Rapid Re-Housing Assistance is appropriate for those at-risk of becoming homeless.

True	False

5. HMIS Component

- Eligible costs for recipients that are HMIS Lead Agencies:

  —Hosting and maintaining software or data

  —Backing up, recovering, or repairing software or data

  —Upgrading, customizing, and enhancing the HMIS

  —Integrating and warehousing data

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5. HMIS Component

- Eligible costs for recipients that are HMIS Lead Agencies:

  — Administering the HMIS

  — Reporting

  — Conducting training on using the HMIS

- Eligible costs for ESG recipients and subrecipients include:

    —Computer hardware, software, and software licenses

    —Office space, utilities, and equipment

    —Obtaining technical support

    —Salaries for HMIS operation

- Eligible costs for ESG recipients and subrecipients include:

    —Staff travel (training and program participant intake)

    —Participation fees charged by the HMIS Lead

- Eligible Administrative costs include:

  – Providing management, oversight, and coordination
  – Monitoring programs and evaluating performance
  – Training on ESG requirements
  – Preparing ESG & homelessness-related sections of the Consolidated Plan
  – Carrying out environmental review responsibilities

- State recipients <u>must</u> share a reasonable amount of funds for administrative costs with subrecipients that are units of general purpose local government

- Staff /overhead costs directly related to one of the program components are NOT subject to the administrative cost limit

- Up to 7.5% of grant may be used for administrative costs

- The 7.5% is calculated based on the <u>entire</u> FY 2011 allocation.

- IDIS will be set to allow draws up to 7.5% of the <u>entire</u> FY 2011 allocation.

Calculating FY 2011 Administrative Amount

Step 1:

Determine Total Admin Amount Available with FY2011 funds:

(Total FY11 Allocation) x 7.5% = Total FY 2011 Amount Available

Example: Total Grant Amt = $175,000 ⟹ *$175,000 x .075 = $13,125*

Step 2:

Determine Total Amount Allocated to Admin from 1st Allocation:

Example: First FY11 Allocation = $100,000 ⟹ *$100,000 x .05 = $5,000*

Step 3:

Determine Amount of Admin Eligible from Second Allocation:

(Total FY11 Amt Available) – (Amt Already Allocated) = Amount Eligible for Admin from 2nd Allocation

⟹ *Example: $13,125 - $5,000 = $8,125*

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1. The HMIS component can fund office space, utilities, and equipment needed for HMIS activities.

True	False

2. The amount of funding available for administrative activities has been cut substantially from Emergency <u>Shelter</u> Grants levels.

True	False

ESG Program Requirements

Centralized/Coordinated Assessment

- Required to use centralized/coordinated intake, implement ESG in coordination with CoC

- Purpose of Coordination
  - Promote consistent standards
  - Avoid duplicative/unnecessary assistance
  - Promote strategic targeting of homeless assistance resources

- Used to initially assess the eligibility and needs of each individual or family who seeks assistance

** Participation in a centralized or coordinated assessment is not required until the CoC Program rule is published as final **

- Coordinate with Continuums of Care on allocation of funds and performance measurements

- Consistency with Consolidated Plan

- Connecting participants with mainstream resources

- Regularly re-evaluating participant eligibility

Other Program Requirements

- Written standards are required to ensure consistent program administration

- Dollar-for-dollar match (cash or in-kind)

- HMIS Participation

- Financial reporting in IDIS

- Performance reporting

Quiz: Program Requirements

1. Which of the following is <u>not</u> a program requirement?

A. Centralized Coordination
B. HMIS
C. HQS

Next Steps in Implementing the ESG Program

Key Implementation Actions

- Review new regulations and materials posted on the HRE to understand new opportunities and responsibilities

- Initiate planning and build relationships to ensure appropriate consultation with CoCs

- Initiate planning for submission of a "Substantial Amendment" to the recipient's Consolidated Plan

- Identify potential implementation challenges and develop strategies to address them

- What can we (as a community) learn from experience with Emergency Shelter Grants, and from HPRP best practices?

- What can we learn from challenges in implementing HPRP?

- What has HPRP taught us about our community's needs?

- How can ESG address these needs?

- How will we consult and coordinate with CoC(s)?

- How will we ensure satisfactory HMIS participation by ESG subrecipients?

- How will we address unsatisfactory levels of HMIS participation?

1. You should begin planning immediately for substantial amendment to Con Plan.

True	False

ESG-Related Webinars

ESG Webinar	Date
Overview of Con Plan/Preparation of Substantial Amendments	11/22
ESG Eligible Activities	11/29
Using IDIS Online for ESG	12/6
Determining and Documenting Homeless and At-Risk Status, Income, and Disability (for ESG, SHP, and S+C)	12/13
ESG General Administrative and Program Requirements	TBD

- Street Outreach
- Rapid Re-housing
- Emergency Shelter
- Homelessness Prevention
- HMIS
- Administrative Activities
- Consolidated Plan
- IDIS
- Determining and Documenting Homeless and At-Risk Status, Income, and Disability (for ESG, SHP, and S+C)

Additional Resources

- Resources on www.hudhre.info will eventually include all of the following:
  - User Guides
  - McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the HEARTH Act
  - All published program regulations
  - Webinar recordings
  - At-a-glance charts and sample forms
  - Link to the ESG Help Desk

- ## You should now be able to:

  - Describe ESG's components, activities, and basic requirements

  - Identify where additional ESG-related information and tools will be made available

  - Identify major actions needed and questions to answer as you begin to implement ESG locally

- ## Please complete the on-line survey to rate how well this webinar met its objectives

- **Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter:**

1. **False**. Essential services for the Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter Components are NOT identical. This is essential to keep in mind as you conduct activities under the two components.

2. **False**. Emergency shelter renovation and operation are both eligible under the Emergency Shelter component.

- **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing:**

1. **True.** Rental Assistance and housing relocation and stability activities are eligible activities under both the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing components. The difference between the two components is whether they serve clients who are homeless or at rick of homelessness.

2. **False**. Only someone who is literally homeless can receive rapid re-housing assistance.

- **HMIS and Administrative Activities**

  1. TRUE. Eligible expenses under HMIS include not only computer hardware and software, and staff time to do the work, but also costs related to maintaining an office space for HMIS activities.

  2.FALSE. Administrative funding has risen from 5% to 7.5% of the grant amount.

- **Program Requirements**

  1.C. Using HQS standards is not required—habitability standards are required when providing assistance in a unit.

- **Implementation Questions**

  E. True. Yes, you can and should begin planning now.