

COVID-19

Homeless System Response: Eligible ESG Program Costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program recipients may use annual ESG and ESG Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (ESG-CV) funds for street outreach (SO) and emergency shelter (ES) essential services and supplies needed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Listed below are eligible shelter operations and SO costs for infectious disease preparedness and response, as well as planning considerations for ESG recipients and subrecipients. Recipients that have already included ES and SO activities in their action plan or substantial amendment would not likely need a plan amendment to include these costs in their existing budget for ESG-funded ES or SO activities.

Special note: The table below has been updated to include costs specific to supporting COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts for people experiencing homelessness.

Emergency Shelter and Temporary Emergency Shelter	
Operations	
Supplies	Cleaning supplies such as bleach, disinfectant wipes, scrubbers, mops
	Protective equipment such as face masks and shields, disposable gloves, sneeze guards for staff and program participants (including supplies for vaccination events)
	Bed linens, towels, hand sanitizer, soap, tissue packets
Food	Individually boxed meals, water, snacks
Furnishings	Cots, room dividers (to provide privacy during vaccination)
Equipment	Washers, dryers, portable handwashing stations, portable showers, ventilation systems (e.g., high-efficiency particulate air [HEPA] filters and air purifiers)
Essential Services	
Case management	Hiring vaccine ambassadors to engage/educate peers about the vaccine
Outpatient health services*	Medication, emergency medical services, medication and follow-up services, coordinating or providing medical treatment, renting space for a vaccination event <i>*Services must be provided by licensed medical professionals and otherwise inaccessible or unavailable within the community.</i>
Transportation	Train or bus tokens/taxi or rideshare for program participant travel to and from medical care, car or van purchase for transporting participants or staff serving program participants, passenger vehicle or bus rental/lease to transport staff or program participants to/from vaccination events

Street Outreach

Engagement	Addressing urgent physical needs such as: portable bathrooms, portable handwashing stations, portable showers, blankets, boxed meals, water, personal protective equipment (e.g., hand sanitizer, soap, tissue packets, face masks and shields, disposable gloves, sneeze guards); hiring vaccine ambassadors to engage/educate peers about the vaccine
Case management	Providing referrals to medical care, coordinating and arranging the delivery of needed services, hiring vaccine ambassadors to engage/educate peers about the vaccine
Emergency health services*	Medication, emergency medical services, medication and follow-up services, coordinating or providing medical treatment <i>*Services must be provided by licensed medical professionals operating in community-based settings and otherwise inaccessible or unavailable within the community.</i>
Transportation	Train or bus tokens/taxi or rideshare for program participant travel to and from medical care, car or van purchase for transporting participants or staff serving program participants, transporting staff or program participants to/from vaccine events

Overhead Costs

Overhead costs directly related to carrying out SO and ES are eligible costs of those program components. For example:

- Case management (ES or SO components): Tablets, phones, hot spots, Wi-Fi boosters to use in:
 - Coordinating services for program participants.
 - Collecting vaccine-related data in Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to assist program participants with following up on the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Outpatient health services (ES component): Tablets, hotspots to assist program participants with public health online registration for the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Emergency health services (SO component): Renting spaces for vaccine events, mobile outreach vans and staff to support vaccine distribution, PPE and supplies at vaccine events.

Expanded Staffing and Training

- Training staff on COVID-19 vaccine planning and distribution strategies.
- Hiring additional staff to support ESG-funded projects' infectious disease preparedness.
- Providing incentives to volunteers who have been and are currently helping to provide necessary SO, ES, and essential services during the coronavirus outbreak.
- Providing training on infectious disease prevention and mitigation for staff working directly to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among ES participants and individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- Providing hazard pay for recipient and subrecipient staff working directly to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among ES participants and individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This includes hazard pay for vaccine ambassadors.
- Paying subject matter experts such as race equity partners to design an engagement strategy for Black, Indigenous, and people of color to increase vaccine confidence for people in shelters or unsheltered populations.
- Purchasing hotel rooms for staff or program participants who may be experiencing side effects from first or second doses.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) costs

- [Paying for HMIS enhancements](#) to record vaccine-specific [data collection](#) and [reporting](#).

Planning Considerations

ESG Program Subrecipients: If your shelter or outreach project needs additional supplies or staffing that will impact your approved budget, please check with your ESG recipient (i.e., State or City/County funder) on how to initiate a budget modification.

ESG Program Recipients:

- The ES/SO cap is waived for all ESG-CV funds as well as annual ESG funds that are documented as being used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
- To make any budget changes:
 - Amend your Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan to:
 - Change your allocation priorities;
 - Carry out an activity not previously described in your plan; or
 - Change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity.
 - Check your citizen participation plan to determine if a budget change constitutes a substantial amendment.
 - ESG-CV: Consultation and citizen participation requirements are waived for ESG-CV funding; however, recipients must publish how they will use their allocation on their website or other electronic media.
 - Annual ESG: The public comment period for amendments related to annual ESG grants is reduced from a 30-day minimum to a 5-day minimum. This waiver is applicable until the end of recipients' 2020 program year.
 - Contact your local U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) field office or submit a question on the HUD Exchange Ask A Question portal for additional assistance.