

# COVID-19

## Homeless System Response: HMIS Allowable Expenses for ESG

### Eligible Activities for HMIS

Under the **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program funding**, eligible Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) costs for ESG recipients and subrecipients include HMIS user fees, salaries for staff entering HMIS data for the ESG recipient or subrecipient, hardware and software costs of participation, and other eligible activities as needed to support the ESG recipient or subrecipient to comply with HMIS requirements of the ESG grant (See § 576.107 (a)(1)). Additionally, if the ESG recipient is also the HMIS lead agency (a rare situation), eligible costs include hosting, backup, reporting, upgrades, and customizations for HMIS (See §576.107 (a)(1) and (a)(2)). A complete listing of eligible activities under §567.107 are below:

<b>ESG recipient or subrecipient may use ESG funds to pay the costs of contributing data to the HMIS designated by the Continuum of Care (CoC), including costs of:</b>	<b>If the recipient is the HMIS Lead agency as designated by the CoC in the most recent fiscal year CoC Grant Competition, it may also use ESG funds to pay the costs of:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Purchasing or leasing computer hardware</li><li>✓ Purchasing software or software licenses</li><li>✓ Purchasing or leasing equipment, including telephones, fax machines, and furniture</li><li>✓ Obtaining technical support</li><li>✓ Leasing office space</li><li>✓ Paying charges for electricity, gas, water, phone service, and high-speed data transmission necessary to operate or contribute data to the HMIS<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Paying salaries for operating HMIS, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Completing data entry</li><li>○ Monitoring and reviewing data quality</li><li>○ Completing data analysis</li><li>○ Reporting to the HMIS Lead</li><li>○ Training staff on using the HMIS or comparable database</li><li>○ Implementing and complying with HMIS requirements</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>✓ Paying costs of staff to travel to and attend HUD-sponsored and HUD-approved training on HMIS and programs authorized by Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act</li><li>✓ Paying staff travel costs to conduct intake</li><li>✓ Paying participation fees charged by the HMIS Lead, if the recipient or subrecipient is not the HMIS Lead</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Hosting and maintaining HMIS software or data</li><li>✓ Backing up, recovering, or repairing HMIS software or data</li><li>✓ Upgrading, customizing, and enhancing the HMIS</li><li>✓ Integrating and warehousing data, including development of a data warehouse for use in aggregating data from subrecipients using multiple software systems</li><li>✓ Administering the system</li><li>✓ Reporting to providers, the CoC, and HUD</li><li>✓ Conducting training on using the system or a comparable database, including cost of traveling to the training</li></ul> <p><b>If the subrecipient is a victim services provider (VSP) or a legal services provider, it may use ESG funds to establish<sup>1</sup> and operate a comparable database that collects client-level data over time (i.e. longitudinal data) and generates unduplicated aggregate reports based on the data. See <a href="#">When to Use a Comparable Database</a> for more information on VSP and comparable databases.</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> "Establish" in this context means purchasing and implementing an off-the-shelf (OTS) HMIS-comparable database. ESG funding cannot be used for the development of an HMIS-comparable database.