



State Homeless Programs Toolkit

The State Homeless Programs Toolkit provides state agencies responsible for implementing HUD-funded homeless programs with tools to help ensure effective and compliant program administration.

The toolkit includes key information for state agencies responsible for administering the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and for state agencies and other entities that administer the Continuum of Care (CoC) program for the “Balance of State” area (generally outside urban, entitlement cities and counties). The material provided in this toolkit is designed to assist all those concerned with effectively utilizing available resources for people experiencing homelessness within their states.

State recipients often face particular challenges in administering these programs, due to large geographies, limited capacity in many rural jurisdictions, diversity of needs and resources, as well as the need for coordination with a large number and wide variety of other entities.

The purpose of the toolkit is to ensure that state recipients have the resources to fully understand how program requirements apply to their unique situations and provide tools to assist them in meeting those requirements.

All states and territories are eligible recipients under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and receive ESG funding by formula. The ESG program is typically administered by a state government agency. State agencies may

also choose to play a key role in administering or coordinating the Continuum of Care program. However, this role varies considerably from state to state, depending on the designated “Collaborative Applicant,” whether or not the state maintains a “Balance of State” CoC and other factors.

It is critical that both state ESG recipients and Balance of State CoCs understand program requirements, including those related to coordination between programs, how funds may be distributed and the need for accurate, comprehensive reporting.

Thus, the materials included in this toolkit concern the following topics:

- ESG Program Basics
- CoC Program Structure and Governance
- Coordination and Consultation Requirements
- HMIS for State ESG Recipients
- Annual CoC Program Competition

The audience for this toolkit is primarily state ESG recipients and secondarily those entities responsible for administering Balance of State CoCs. All ESG recipients, whether state or otherwise, are required to coordinate with each other and to comply with additional requirements established by the HEARTH Act. There is no single method to address these requirements, however, we encourage recipients to use these tools as they see fit to enhance compliance, coordination and effectiveness in meeting the needs of families and individuals experiencing homelessness.