Paying for Count Activities with ESG and ESG-CV Funding

This resource outlines how ESG funds can be used to support the HIC and PIT count efforts.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipients are required to work with the Continuums of Care (CoCs) in their jurisdiction to collect and report homeless data, including the Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data. ESG recipients are required to report the PIT and HIC data as part of their Consolidated Plan to outline homelessness needs and resources.

ESG funds can pay for both street outreach activities and administrative costs of conducting the count.

What qualifies as a street outreach activity?

Activities that include contacting and engaging people in unsheltered situations.

What are some examples of qualifying street outreach expenses?

✓ Personal protective equipment (PPE) for people experiencing homelessness identified in the PIT count.
✓ Mobile PIT count software and related hardware, PPE, and other necessary supplies for staff and volunteers participating in the count.
✓ Street outreach staff time **if the CoC's PIT count requires interviews and one-on-one interactions** with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

What is NOT a qualifying expense:

✘ Outreach expenses **if the CoC is using an observation-based count** that does not involve outreach to or interaction with people experiencing homelessness.

*Note that the street outreach staff **must** follow all applicable regulatory and statutory requirements, including the ESG HMIS participation requirement.*

What qualifies as an administrative cost?

Costs directly associated with implementing the count.

What are some examples of qualifying administrative expenses?

✓ Staff time coordinating the PIT count.
✓ Mobile PIT count software and related hardware.
✓ PPE for staff and volunteers participating in the count.

What is NOT a qualifying expense:

✘ Food for volunteers.
✘ Gift cards for people participating in the count.

Do you have questions about what PIT count activities qualify for ESG funding?
Email your question to HICPITcount@hud.gov.