



What is RUSH?

Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) grants, awarded under the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program, are made to states or local governments to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness who have been residing in a “declared disaster area” and have needs that are not otherwise served or fully met by existing federal disaster relief programs. See the [RUSH notice](#) for more information on how RUSH is allocated.

RUSH-Eligible Activities

- Emergency shelter (congregate and non-congregate).
- Rapid re-housing (RRH) or homelessness prevention.
- Short-/medium-term rental assistance (up to 24 months).
- Housing relocation and stabilization services.
- Financial assistance for move-in costs.
- Supportive services for people currently experiencing homelessness.
- Street outreach services.
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- Administration—7.5 percent limit.

RUSH Eligibility

To be eligible, households must:

1. Be homeless or at risk of homelessness (if already found eligible for ESG prior to the disaster, households are not required to re-qualify as homeless or at risk of homelessness for assistance under RUSH); **and**
2. Have been residing in an area affected by a major disaster declared pursuant to the Stafford Act on or after December 20, 2019; **and**
3. Have needs that will not be served or fully met by the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) Program (42 USC 5170b) and other existing federal disaster relief programs (including both federal and non-federal cost share).

Special RUSH Requirements

- No match requirements.
- Avoid duplication of benefits—see the [Quick Guide](#).

Coordinated Entry and ESG Written Standards

Modifications can be made to Coordinated Entry and ESG Written Standards to account for disaster situations:

- Modifications can be made to account to accommodate eligible households wishing to move outside of their existing geography.
- Communities are encouraged to adjust their prioritization policies based on evolving information and circumstances, including new or improved data, changing needs and priorities, and available resources.
- Collaboration across Coordinated Entry systems by RUSH recipients and subrecipients is necessary to best assist households that have been displaced from their community of origin.

SAMPLE RUSH Coordinated Entry Prioritization

LOCATION	CIRCUMSTANCE & HOUSING STATUS	SUBPOPULATION CONSIDERATIONS
Disaster-Impacted County	1a. People who are unsheltered and were literally homeless prior to the disaster. 1b. People who are unsheltered and who have become literally homeless as a result of the disaster. AND 2. People who are unsheltered and who are not TSA eligible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied youth • Family with minor children • Adult
Disaster-Impacted County	1a. People who are sheltered and were literally homeless prior to the disaster. 1b. People who are sheltered and who have become literally homeless as a result of the disaster. AND 2. People who are sheltered and who are not TSA eligible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied youth • Family with minor children • Adult
Disaster-Impacted County	People who are sheltered who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have utilized TSA and those services have ended. 2. Are at risk of homelessness or literally homeless as a result of the disaster. Were forced to leave the place they were staying because of a disaster.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied youth • Family with minor children • Adult

Ensuring Equity

RUSH RRH providers should ensure that the delivery of services does not continue existing disparities. Every effort must be made to ensure that overrepresented populations have access to and are receiving RUSH assistance. Coordinated entry systems can take the following steps to ensure equitable service delivery:

1. Modify your coordinated entry policies and procedures and written standards to include this prioritization for RUSH within [Fair Housing law](#)—coordinated entry cannot prioritize households based on protected classes such as race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, familial status, or national origin.
2. Integrate periodic equity reviews to ensure overrepresented populations are adequately served.
3. If there are areas of your disaster-impacted geography where overrepresented populations have historically been living, ensure that there is adequate supportive service and outreach support to connect these populations to RUSH services.

Coordinated entry systems should be prepared to move rapidly to make housing referrals for RUSH, including an expedited assessment, prioritization, and referral process that creates the opportunity to house people quickly.