

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: State ESG recommendations for FY 2025/26

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Information:

- Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program: This federal program provides funds for a variety of activities to address homelessness as authorized under the HEARTH Act and State program requirements. The ESG program provides grant funding to 1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street; 2) rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families; 3) help operate and provide essential services in emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families; and 4) prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless. The California Department of Housing and Community Development administers the program with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Page 34 of the Contra Costa Written Standards For Providing COC and ESG Assistance: <https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/6397/638687436805330000>
 - B. Orders of Priority for ESG-Funded Activities: The Contra Costa County CoC adopts the recommended order of priority established in 25 CCR 8409 for ESG-funded activities. The CoC will prioritize access to assistance for people with the most urgent and severe needs, including, but not limited to, survivors of domestic violence. ESG-funded activities shall seek to prioritize people who:
 1. Are unsheltered and living in places not designed for human habitation, such as cars, parks, bus stations, and abandoned buildings;
 2. Have experienced the longest amount of time homeless;
 3. Have multiple and severe service needs that inhibit their ability to quickly identify and secure housing on their own; and
 4. For homelessness prevention activities, people who are at greatest risk of becoming literally homeless without an intervention and are at greatest risk of experiencing a longer time in shelter or on the street should they become homeless

Referral History and Update: The County received State ESG funds on an entitlement formula basis for the provision of essential services for the homeless; emergency shelter operations and related services; homelessness prevention, and rapid re-housing activities. For FY 2025/26, the will County receive a total of \$229,545 of State ESG funding, which is approximately \$75,000 less than FY 2024/25. FY 2025/26 funds will be available for use beginning on July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

On October 14, 2025, the Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) released FY 2026/27 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. On December 11, 2025, DCD staff

received a total of five applications for State ESG funds in the amount of \$301,867, broken down between Rapid Rehousing, Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter. The five applications received are from current subrecipients that have received funding in prior years and who have capacity and experience.

State ESG regulations mandate that at least 40 percent of the funds be allocated to the Rapid Rehousing component, DCD staff has met this requirement while also ensuring an even increase across all project components that have been applied for – Rapid Rehousing, Street Outreach, and Emergency Shelter. Additionally, \$2,295 will be allocated for project administration.

The Department of Conservation and Development presents its recommendations for FY 2025/26 State ESG funding allocations to the Council on Homelessness for review and approval before forwarding Council's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. FY 2025/26 funding will become available beginning July 1, 2026 and go through June 30, 2027. Staff's detailed recommendations for the use of State ESG funds are listed in the Attachment.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Approve DCD Staff's recommendations for FY 2025/26 State ESG funding allocations.