

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Emergency Solutions Grant Funding Recommendation for FY 2026/27

Presenter: Jaclyn Tummings, *Department of Conservation and Development*

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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.
  
- 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:** Contra Costa County is an entitlement jurisdiction, entitled to receive Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and ESG funds from HUD each year for the provision of essential services for the homeless; emergency shelter operations and related services; homelessness prevention, and rapid re-housing activities. To receive this annual award of federal funds, the County must submit a strategy, called the Consolidated Plan, every five years. The Consolidated Plan identifies priorities of local needs and general objectives on how these needs will be addressed. As part of the Consolidated Plan process, the County must submit an Annual Action Plan for each year during the five-year Consolidated Plan period. An Annual Action Plan specifies and describes what actions and activities will be carried out during the program year to address priority needs identified in the County's current Consolidated Plan, and identifies the use and amount of

HOME, CDBG and ESG funds to be received during the program year by activities and identifies proposed accomplishments by activity.

On February 3, 2026, the President signed the federal budget into law, which includes funding for HUD programs. Although HUD still needs to complete its appropriations formula to determine the County's exact allocation, we estimate that the amount will be similar to last fiscal year at \$405,597. Of this total, seven and a half percent (7.5%) will be used for administrative expenses, leaving \$375,177 available for project funding.

On October 14, 2025, the Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) released FY 2026/27 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for CDBG and ESG funds. On December 11, 2025, DCD staff received a total of six applications for ESG funds in the amount of \$387,747 broken down between Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Rehousing, Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter. The six applications received are from current subrecipients that have received funding in prior years and who have capacity and experience. Staff's recommendations for FY 2026/27 are to fund the programs at the amounts they were funded in FY 2025/26.

Since Staff's recommendations are based under a "Continuing Resolution," our recommendations may be subject to change once the federal budget is officially approved. Should any adjustments be necessary, we will reconvene with the committee to present revised recommendations accordingly.

The Department of Conservation and Development presents its recommendations for FY 2026/27 ESG funding allocations to the Council on Homelessness for review and approval before forwarding Council's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. FY 2026/27 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 A.

**Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

Approve DCD Staff's recommendations for FY 2025/26 ESG funding allocations. The Committee's recommendations will be forward to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.