

Introduction

On December 17, 1993, the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles entered a joint exercise of powers agreement to create the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to provide coordinated homeless services. The County and City have designated LAHSA to apply for funds through the annual HUD SuperNOFA process for the following programs: Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, and the SRO Moderate Rehabilitation Program. The County also grants ESG funds to LAHSA. The funds will be apportioned in the County and City according to need described in Section Five of the 2003-2008 Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan for the Los Angeles Urban County.

New ESG Funds for the 2007 - 2008 Program Year

The new Program Year (2007 - 2008) will begin on July 1, 2007. Total ESG funds available in 2007 - 2008 are \$1,320,346.

FEDERAL INVESTMENT CRITERIA

Table 4-1 estimates the amounts and percentages of ESG funds to be allocated to activities.

Table 4-1
Proposed Use of ESG Funds by Eligible Activity

Eligible Activity	Amount	Percent
Operating Costs ¹	\$858,226	65%
Essential Services ²	\$396,103	30%
Administration	\$66,017	5%
Total	\$1,320,346	100%

¹ Operations costs are those costs associated with emergency and transitional shelters such as rent, utilities, security, food, etc. which are necessary to provide shelter services.

² Essential Services is a cost category for personnel providing such supportive services as case management, job training and employment counseling, intervention services for substance abuse, and education.

HUD requires that the grantee provide a 100 percent match for ESG funding. Supportive Housing Program funds provided to LAHSA through the HUD SuperNOFA will provide 100 percent of the match requirement for the ESG funds.

Use of ESG Funds and Project Selection

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) proposes to use the 2007-2008 ESG allocation to meet the objectives of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and to meet homeless needs, goals, and objectives identified in the Consolidated Plan.

PROPOSED USE OF ESG FUNDS

Given the shortage of funds for emergency shelter and services—and in response to extensive Countywide public participation in planning—the highest priority for the use of ESG is to strengthen and enlarge the network of emergency beds and services and to strengthen the referral system to these facilities in order to address the needs of chronically homeless individuals and families. Five percent of the ESG funds will cover LAHSA administrative expenses. Ninety-Five percent of the ESG funds will be used to fund the four programs listed below.

Four (4) programs are proposed to be funded with ESG funds to meet this priority:

- Emergency Shelter and Services Program
- Winter Shelter Program
- Ocean Park Community Center Access Center
- Emergency Response Team

Emergency Shelter and Services Program

Agencies that receive funds for providing year-round shelter beds in the Emergency Shelter and Services Program were selected through a competitive RFP process that was conducted in 2005. These agencies will continue to receive funds for a 2-year period and may be reviewed for a third year if funds are available and the program is reaching its performance goals. Clients enrolling in the program are provided with shelter, food, transportation, case management and appropriate social services.

Winter Shelter Program

Nonprofit providers were selected through an RFP process that was conducted in 2005. Additional providers were selected through a targeted RFP process that was conducted in 2006. The Winter Shelter Program is designed to provide homeless persons with a comfortable shelter environment, two meals, transportation to the shelter, and referrals to social services during the coldest and wettest months of the year. Under the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year the program is planned to operate from 11/15/07 through 3/30/08.

Ocean Park Community Center Access Center

Access centers are the entry points for many homeless people into the LAHSA funded system of services and housing. ESG funds will be used for essential services required to operate the access center, which serves a large area on the Westside of the County.

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) offers outreach assistance and access to services and referrals to homeless persons in the County of Los Angeles. These services and referrals are provided to homeless persons residing in encampments and in outdoors locations. The City and County of Los Angeles funds ERT Program equally with ESG monies. The ERT Program is comprised of five staff members that work directly with the offices of City and County officials and departments, community organizations, service providers, and the public at large. Homeless people are assisted with ending their current situation through crisis intervention, assessments and referrals to social service agencies within the Continuum of Care.

PROJECT SELECTION

LAHSA, in compliance with ESG application requirements under 24 CFR 576.51 awards ESG funding to nonprofit agencies providing beds through competitive processes. Two programs require agencies to be selected through an RFP process: the Emergency Shelter and Services Program and the Winter Shelter Program.

LAHSA funds other programs non-competitively that are deemed by the LAHSA Commission to be essential to the functioning of the Continuum of Care: the Ocean Park Community Center Access Center, and the Emergency Response Team.

Review Criteria

All projects, whether receiving funding through a competitive or non-competitive process, are reviewed for the following:

- Capacity of the service provider to adhere to the ESG regulations and provide the intended program within ESG guidelines to the eligible population.
- Eligibility within 24 CFR 576.21.
- Consistency of the proposed project with the Consolidated Plan, the Continuum of Care, and the LAHSA program under which the program is funded.
- Ability of the agency to expend funds within the timeframe required by HUD, the CDC and the LAHSA contract.