

**OEO ESG CARES Act Funds Roundtable
Meeting Minutes
Date: June 30, 2021
Time: 2:30 pm**

I. Welcome

James Miller, OEO Director, provided overview of round table discussion. Addressed our interest to assist partners to meet the needs of participants, and organizations creatively within the ESG eligible activities or to request funds for items that may require a waiver from HUD if not already established related to the COVID-19 response in our state. OEO will be doing coordinated round table discussion monthly to continue addressing issues of the day. Encouraged everyone to contact OEO with questions to assist with performing the grant to meet our collective goals.

Gregg McConkey, OEO ESG Manager, introduced the COC presenters; discussed revising budget within line items and components. Clarified that any amount of ESG-CV funds can be spent towards ESG components, whereas regular ESG has an overall OEO grant spending cap in shelter cost of 60 percent.

II. Continuum of Care Presentations

Presenter: Amy Wilson and Heather Carver from Lowcountry Continuum of Care:

Amy Wilson gave updates on staffing up, equipment, supplies and training to perform assist participants, and meet performance standards i.e. working in house at shelters, in the field and doing HMIS. Uses Cognito program for data i.e. can pull up link on computer in the field, including attachments and documents to upload to the system, freeing up case managers to assist participants without a lot of time doing paperwork. She mentioned working with landlords with double deposits, and a risk mitigation fund to pay up to \$5,000. Per the ESG CV Notice paying for damages per unit is an allowable cost under a landlord incentive; however, funding a general mitigation fund is not an eligible ESG-CV activity. Landlord Incentives are eligible; however, per the ESG-CV Notice, the limitation to **three times the rent charged for each unit** ensures enough ESG-CV funds remain available to provide other eligible activities necessary to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Eligible landlord incentive costs include:

- (i) Signing bonuses equal to up to 2 months of rent;
- (ii) Security deposits equal to up to 3 months of rent;
- (iii) Paying the cost to repair damages incurred by the program participant not covered by the security deposit or that are incurred while the program participant is still residing in the unit; and,
- (iv) Paying the costs of extra cleaning or maintenance of a program participant's unit or appliances. the landlord incentive is not eligible to pay for damages. See below questions.

In regards to lack of housing stock Amy mentioned paying more for rent than they normally look at as acceptable. For example, if you generally look for housing in the \$700 per month range, bump that up to the \$900 range. Look at transportation cost, it is allowable. Hire a data entry person for HMIS.



Heather Carver stated having participants in their area with problems finding housing, and landlords, and having a landlord liaison staff to navigate the ESGCV program to meet participant needs. Finding property, transportation, mediation and legal services to meet participant needs- to include other areas outside of the community. Suggested making sure outreach staff have what they need to complete the eligibility for participants to get folks into homelessness. Provided Landlord incentives to encourage.

Presenter: Lorain Crowl from Upstate Continuum of Care – Stated focus on ESGCV was on quarantine services and now the focus is on education, physically, mentally on taking the vaccine; using funds for equipment to meet participant needs i.e. phones, vehicle to transport to essential services -now and after. Used Point in Time customer service representative to get data documentation process.

Presenter: Joey Smoak- Total Care for the Homeless- concurred with other COC experiences. Experiencing challenging performing different grants i.e. ESG, ESGCV and other grants in their area. Putting Outreach staff in the fields to assist the most vulnerable as a major contributor to the homeless population.

Presenter: Andy Pope- MACH -thanked the other COCs for their input that will be used to assist him in MACHs efforts. Asked if the partners are able to make changes to budgets based on their needs. Gregg shared the line item and component changes. Andy asked about possible re-allocation of any remaining ESGCV funds. Gets feedback from One80place who provides CV and other partners in the MACH. Gregg shared that outcomes for spending will be addressed with partners. James Miller encouraged everyone to communicate their grant spending status whether to return funds or needing more.

III. Subgrantee Questions and Comments

Sandra Bullock, First Impression- working with families and children under 17. Asked if cleaning supplies can be purchased and used to assist those outside of ESG eligibility. Gregg responded purchase aforementioned for non ESG eligible activities are unallowable. James encouraged the out of the box thoughts that maybe actually be allowable, especially for those not familiar with eligible costs or that could be questioned with HUD for approval on an individual basis.

Angela Hurks, Step by Step - Introduced Harrison Martin and remarked about cases of COVID in her area. Did restructuring the Street outreach to assist participants. Spoke about her current staff and staff vacancy.

Brenda Jamerson, Samaritan House- could they change their budget if they see not able to meet the current budget needs. **Gregg** informed about the revision process for line items and components. She asked how to send in their fringe and cook costs as ESG allowable expenses.

Kimberly Cosare, Fiscal Services Manager, Office of Economic Opportunity-encouraged Brenda to submit the cook and fringe benefits information for the appropriate method to assign the ESG eligible cost.

Nick Waldwick, Go Forth Recovery- With them being a new agency to ESG, wanted to acknowledge James Irby and Veronica Jackson assistance in helping them to process the ESG20 and CV RFRs.

Becky Clement, Salvation Army Greenville- having to assist as their funding capacity allows; will expend the total award amounts

Caprice Atterbury, Family Services (Origins SC) Affordable housing building cost –could ESG be used to produce a building.

IV. Closing

Kimberly Cosare, OEO, reminded people to send RFR's to Veronica Jackson and copy her and Gregg McConkey. Also, add in the email a statement if the request includes a budget transfer. This will hasten the turnaround time for payment. She is also updating the FAQ sheet with more information on cleaning and air purifiers.

Renee Rochester, Dept. of Administration, State of SC stated OEO will be reaching out about spending of funds.

James Miller closed the meeting with statement thanking everyone for their time and to contact OEO with any assistance they may need.

