

**OEO ESG CARES Act Funds Roundtable
Meeting Minutes
Date: August 18, 2021
Time: 10:30 am**

I. Welcome

James Miller, OEO Director, presided over the round table discussion. Shared this is our third roundtable discussion, reminded everyone about the September 30, 2021, deadline toward twenty percent expenditure for ESGCV eligible costs. He provided a helpful reminder to those in attendance to communicate with OEO if they may not be able to commit to the award amounts funded. This office is making plans to reallocate funds to meet our collective needs in response to COVID 19. We have done some in person and Teams meeting training with to address the performance of the grant. We received feedback from some subrecipients about the request for reimbursement (RFR) process, to include the support documentation required that would be acceptable for disbursement. We are reviewing our process and in contact for HUD on guidance and technical assistance to reduce the time in completing the RFR process. Encouraged everyone to contact OEO with questions to assist with performing the grant or suggestions to meet our collective goals to make things better. There have been some staff changes, to include Gregg reviewing some RFRs to assist in making our efforts work better for you and our record keeping. Once Gregg and the COCs have completed their updates, we will open the session for your feedback about the ESGCV experiences.

Gregg McConkey, OEO ESG Manager, shared about the new subrecipients training correspondence about ESGCV training and encouraged other subrecipients that have new staff or just need insight on the process or current changes with ESGCV to contact us for face to face or Teams Meeting. He mentioned about the success of the previous meetings and our interest in meeting where it is most prudent because of the substantial and in some cases high transmission of COVID 19. Reiterated about our communications with HUD and our efforts to be as efficient as possible as the subrecipients perform the ESGCV activities and complete RFRs.

James shared about the fluidity of the ESGCV process, and we are here to assist in providing clarity from our perspective and encouraged those in the meeting to express the experiences about the RFR process; good, bad, or otherwise.

II. Continuum of Care Presentations

Presenter: Andy Pope- MACH -introduced himself as representative of Midland Area Consortium for the Homeless of thirteen county area. Some organization in MACH have repurposed their funds from Rapid Re-housing into Emergency Shelter as those needs have increased: that some of the counties are using some of their funds from the federal government into infrastructure rather than homeless programs. This gave MACH the opportunity to provide homeless prevention to some of the counties that are not getting some of the federal funds. He thanked OEO for the relief in providing funds to some of those organizations, since some funds have not gone to the rural areas to individuals the MACH supports. He reminded those in the MACH area to contact them if they



question, ideas or in need of training to implement the programs. He wanted to thank collectively the programs in MACH that are spending and meeting the needs of their communities.

Presenter: **Lorain Crowl -Upstate Continuum of Care** – She thanked OEO for the training and assistance in their processing make the staff feel supported and has made a difference. Currently there is an uptick in COVID 19; four individuals in their shelters with the Delta Variant because hospitals are near capacity: looking for additional ventilators: making a conscious effort to aid individuals, especially from another county because their hospital was at capacity. They plan to keep beds available with the means to double the capacity in the shelter with assistance from DHEC.

Gregg took a moment to address some of the technical issues for those who were not able to stream the meeting, was successful to getting connections and shared with others that were not able to email him they were in attendance.

James encouraged everyone to communicate their grant spending status whether to return funds or to expedite the RFR within the standards. He provided a recap of the meeting for those who were not on the meeting earlier. He shared about the COC trainings that were identified that are available to assist the subrecipient needs.

Andy encouraged that providers complete their quarterly reports, because it is a great indicator of documented information in HMIS: encouraged running the reports at least monthly or more often. Angela has a new HMIS case manager and needs information to assist her needs. Upstate COC plans to be in touch with her.

III. **Subgrantee Questions and Comments**

Angela Hurks, Step by Step - Shared an interest in the payroll issues to process her RFR. Gregg encouraged her to contact his office to address her interest. tin 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.

Sandra Bullock, First Impression- Shared similar issues with payroll and other RFR issues and need technical assistance. Asked about cleaning supplies, tissue, and pampers; essentials for families because they received a County grant does not fund those items. Gregg shared the new HUD Notice from July 19, 2021, mentions flexibility with some day-to-day operations, and supplies that could be given to clients i.e. hand sanitizer, but not a list of things, but items to mitigate COVID 19. James shared plans for OEO to share correspondence in regard to the items that could be utilized to meet the agency and participant needs. Sandra shared about them doing a memorial soon for someone she worked with at SHARE. Prisma hospital systems plans to do free vaccines. She wanted guidance on the best practice on incentivizing those under the new Notice, because she does not feel comfortable giving our cash as outlined in the Notice; would a gift card be allowable. She shared receiving information from James Irby, OEO Program Coordinator, but not fully understanding the HUD Notice guidance. Gregg shared the method for the incentive would need to be i.e., gift card would need to be tied with the participant.

Brenda Jamerson- Samaritan House, asked where the cost would be identified on the RFR. Gregg shared plans for this office to provide a means to record that documentation. He shared that gift card in the past have not been allowable, however the Notice includes gift cards. The new Notice also includes the shelter deadline has been waived and in line with the deadline for the other components. He shared additional updates in the Notice i.e., cell phones, essential services, and even furniture. She asked about the United Way Gift and Kind program of the Piedmont. Angela Hurks shared information how to be involved in that program in Spartanburg, SC. Andy Pope the program mentioned may not be specific to MACH but did shared about their emergency food and shelter program that is available, but not included for the Orangeburg area.



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IV. Closing

Gregg closed the meeting with statement to remind everyone about future round tables and to submit questions ahead of the meeting for us to research, and to be discussed at the next roundtable.

