

## **Substantial Amendment to the 2024 Action Plan for the ESG RUSH Funds**

The South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has submitted changes to their State Emergency Solutions Grant 2024 Action Plan. The following responses explain the changes to the methodology of distribution and criteria used to award the supplemental ESG RUSH funds.

### **Introduction**

As authorized by 42 U.S.C. 11364a(c)(l), HUD has determined to make a special allocation of Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding to the State of South Carolina. This funding, declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) on or after December 20, 2019, will address the needs of homeless individuals or families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in areas affected by a major disaster and whose needs are not otherwise served or fully met by existing Federal disaster relief programs. This allocation of "Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing" (RUSH) funding under the ESG Program is in response to the President's major disaster declaration dated September 29, 2024, DR-4829-SC as amended, for Hurricane Helene, and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) determination that this disaster was severe enough to activate its TSA program. Specifically, HUD is making an initial allocation of \$ 3,000,000 in RUSH funding available to the State of South Carolina.\* Eligible counties for this RUSH funding include Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Jasper, Kershaw, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union, and York.

### **AP-12 Participation 91.115, 91.300 (c)**

#### **Public Notice Process**

Once the Substantial Amendment documents are compiled, a public notice will be placed on the South Carolina Department of Commerce website (cdbgsc.com) and South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity website (o eo.sc.gov). The Substantial Amendment will also be posted on Department of Commerce and OEO websites.

### **AP 15 - Expected Resources 91.320 (c) {1,2}**

#### **Narrative Description**

It is anticipated that 100% of the ESG RUSH funding will be used for eligible services in the areas of administration, emergency shelter, street outreach, rapid re-housing, homeless prevention, and homeless management information system (HMIS), consistent with the award letter for the ESG RUSH allocation. Funds will be used for approved services to address the needs of individuals or families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness within the President's major disaster declaration area DR-4829-SC, dated September 29, 2024, as amended. No Match is required for the ESG RUSH funding.

#### **Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied.**

No Match is required for the ESG RUSH Funding.

### **AP 25– Allocation Priorities 91.320 (d)**

#### **How will the proposed distribution of funds will address the priority needs and specific objectives described in the Consolidated Plan?**

ESG RUSH funding, a special allocation under the ESG Program, is limited to serving populations residing within disaster declared areas. ESG RUSH assistance to individuals/families and organizations will be evaluated for duplication of benefits as required by 42 U.S.C. §11364(a) and the ESG RUSH implementation guidelines and regulations prior to provision of assistance. The resources may include private insurance other federal resources (such as FEMA Transitional Sheltering Assistance).

### **AP 30 - Method of Distribution 91.320 (d) & (k)**

#### **Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.**

ESG RUSH funds will be allocated by OEO to subrecipients in each county designated within the President's major disaster declaration area DR-4829-SC, dated September 29, 20224 as amended. OEO will accept applications exclusively from current OEO ESG sub recipients that serve the following declared disaster areas: Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Greenville, Hampton,

Jasper, Kershaw, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union, and York counties. Following this review, OEO will enter into a grant agreement with each sub recipient to ensure adherence to the financial and program requirements.

**Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.**

Applications will only be selected from current OEO ESG sub recipients that can serve the DR-4829-SC identified counties and have demonstrated high performance of their ESG award. Using current ESG subrecipients will allow for the most rapid and effective deployment of ESG RUSH funds.

**Describe the process for awarding funds to state recipients and how the state will make its allocation available to units of general local government, and non-profit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. (ESG only)**

OEO has opted to award funding for ESG RUSH only to non-profit organizations. All 501(c)3 non-profits registered in the State of South Carolina are eligible to apply. Applications will only be selected from current OEO ESG sub recipients that currently serve the DR-4829-SC identified counties.

**Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories. \*\***

The plan to distribute ESG RUSH funds is as follows:

7.5% in State Program Administration

50% shared between Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach

42.5% shared between Rapid Re-Housing, Homeless Prevention, and HMIS

Actual amounts may differ once all applications are received, but Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach combined cannot exceed 60%.

| <b>Proposed Activity</b>     | <b>Proposed Funding Amount</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Emergency Shelter            | \$1,350,000.00                 |
| Street Outreach              | \$150,000.00                   |
| Rapid Re-housing             | \$1,102,500.00                 |
| Homeless Prevention          | \$122,500.00                   |
| HMIS                         | \$50,000                       |
| State Program Administration | \$225,000                      |
| <b>Total ESG RUSH</b>        | <b>\$3,000,000.00</b>          |

**Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.**

While applicants for the OEO ESG RUSH funds may request funds for multiple service components, each service component proposed in an application is individually considered for an award of funds. OEO strives to fund as many sub recipients as possible and to distribute funding that can serve the DR-1829-SC identified counties.

**What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?**

The same outcome measures for the regular Emergency Solutions Grant Program will be used for the ESG RUSH funds. Provide Street Outreach to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, provide Emergency Shelter and/or essential services for individuals and families who have become homeless, provide Rapid Re-Housing to individuals and families to shorten their episode of homelessness, and provide Homeless Prevention to individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless.

**AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.320(f)**

**Description of the geographic areas of the state (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed.**

Assistance provided by ESG RUSH funds will be directed to the counties designated within the President’s major disaster declaration area DR-4829-SC, dated September 29, 20224 as amended.

\*The initial notification of the award amount was \$2,957,704 but the amount was increased to \$3,000,000 through grant agreement dated 2/4/25.

\*\* The award distribution was changed based on applications and administrative costs.



