
THE CITY OF TROY: EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING PROCESS

BACKGROUND

Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) of 2020, COVID-19 Relief funds were allocated to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program to help America's low-income families and most vulnerable citizens in the wake of the pandemic. COVID-19 Relief funding was distributed through two allocations, the first round was awarded to States and Cities through the existing ESG grant formula in order to expedite the process of disseminating the funds. The second allocation of funding was based on a new formula looking at need due to the impacts of the COVID crisis.

SECOND ALLOCATION

Under the second allocation of COVID-19 Relief funding the City of Troy received \$643,423 for eligible ESG activities. The CARES Act eliminated requirements for local planning and procurement standards applied to annual ESG funding process, however, the City of Troy considered it essential to work closely with Rensselaer County Homeless Services Collaborative (RCHSC) homeless service providers to determine community needs. The RCHSC is a Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless services planning body who meet monthly to collaborate on homeless and at-risk homeless services. The CoC is made of local service providers and leaders invested in ending homelessness in their community.

ESG COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING ALTERNATE REQUIREMENTS

- No match requirement
- No spending cap on Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach
- Up to 10% of the grant can be spent on Administrative activities
- Income eligibility 50 percent AMI for Homelessness Prevention
- Allows deviation from applicable procurement standards
- Citizen participation/consultation requirements not required (although must publish how the allocation will be used on Government web site)
- No minimum period of use for Emergency Shelters
- May not require program participants to receive treatment or perform any other prerequisite activities as a condition for receiving shelter, housing, or services

HOW THE SECOND ALLOCATION WAS DETERMINED

The RCHSC Board convened to discuss the process for developing a recommendation to the City of Troy on ESG funding allocations. The Board determined that the process that was followed for first ESG-CV allocation was productive and successful. Local homeless service providers were invited to be participants on workgroups tasked with developing funding needs within each eligible activity. Homeless Prevention services was identified to have the greatest anticipated need. The workgroups were broken-down by ESG eligible program types: Street Outreach & Shelter, Homeless Prevention, and Rapid Rehousing. Each workgroup convened at least one meeting in which they collaborated on a draft budget. The RCHSC Board reviewed and finalized the budget. The RCHSC ESG-CV Round 2 funding recommendation was then submitted to the City of Troy for consideration.

WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS

Representatives from the following organizations participated in the funding recommendation (next to the organization indicates the part of the process to which they were involved)

1. Joseph's House & Shelter (Executive Committee, Board, and Workgroups: Emergency Shelter and Homeless Prevention)

2. Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY (Executive Committee, Board, and Workgroups: Homeless Prevention)
3. Unity House of Troy (Executive Committee, Board, and Workgroups: Homeless Prevention)
4. Catholic Charities Housing (Executive Committee and Board)
5. The Roark Center (Workgroup: Homeless Prevention)
6. YWCA of the Great Capital Region (Board and Workgroups: Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention)
7. St. Paul's Center (Board and Workgroups: Emergency Shelter and Rapid Rehousing)
8. Troy Area Unity Ministries (Board and Workgroup: Homeless Prevention)
9. Solider On (Board)
10. Troy Housing Authority (Board)

ESG COVID-19 FUNDS DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

Below is the City's recommendation for the distribution and use of the funds per eligible activity.

Eligible Category	Amount	Percentage of Budget
Emergency Shelter & Street Outreach	\$ 50,500.00	7.8
Rapid Rehousing	\$ 47,981.00	7.5
Homeless Prevention	\$ 465,556.00	72.4
HMIS	\$ 31,130.00	
Total Requests	\$ 595,167.00	
Administrative Costs	\$ 48256.00	7.5

ELIGIBLE ESG-CV FUNDING ACTIVITIES

Eligible Program Type	Purpose	Eligible Costs
Emergency Shelter	Essential services	Case management, childcare, education services, employment assistance and job training, outpatient health services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation, and services for special populations.
Emergency Shelter	Shelter operations	Maintenance, rent, repair, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, relocation, and furnishings.
Homeless Prevention	Housing relocation and stabilization services and short and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to prevent the individual or family from becoming homeless if: 1) Annual income of the family is below 30% of median family income. 2) Assistance is necessary to help program participants regain stability in their current permanent housing or move	Utilities, rental application fees, security deposits, last month's rent, utility deposits and payments, moving costs, housing search and placement, housing stability case management, landlord-tenant mediation, tenant legal services, emergency financial assistance to avoid eviction and credit

into other permanent housing and repair. achieve stability in that housing.

Rapid Re-Housing

Housing relocation and stabilization services and short and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help individuals or families living in shelters or in places not meant for human habitation move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

Utilities, rental application fees, security deposits, last month's rent, utility deposits and payments, moving costs, housing search and placement, housing stability case management, landlord-tenant mediation, tenant legal services, and credit repair.