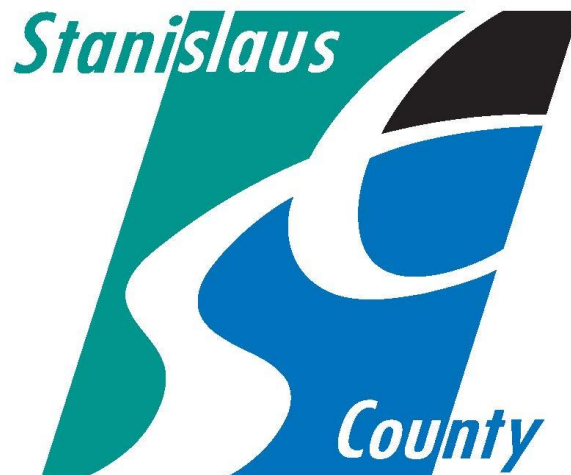


**Stanislaus County
Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program
and
California Emergency Solutions Grants
(CA-ESG) 2024 Allocation**

**Fiscal Year 2024-2025
Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and
Grant Application Guidelines**



**Stanislaus County
Department of Planning & Community Development
1010 10th Street, Suite #3400
Modesto, CA 95354
CommunityDevelopment@stancounty.com**

APPLICATION ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

***4:30 PM; Wednesday,
January 31, 2024***

For questions and/or any information needed about the application, or application submission process, contact Community Development staff via email or at (209) 525-6330.



**Stanislaus County
Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program and
California Emergency Solutions Grants (CA-ESG) 2024 Allocation Program**

**Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and
Grant Application Guidelines
For Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY 24-25)**

Please review the Grant Application Guidelines prior to starting the application process.

Stanislaus County is pleased to present the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program and State of California Emergency Solutions Grants (CA-ESG) 2024 Allocation grant application guidelines to interested parties. This document is intended to explain the federal and local goals of the grant programs and to assist an applicant in applying for ESG and CA-ESG funds.

In administering this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), if there is a conflict between the federal statutes and regulations or grant application guidelines, the federal statutes and regulations shall prevail. All activities in this NOFA are subject to availability of funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The County reserves the right, at its sole discretion and at any time, to rescind, suspend or amend this NOFA and any or all its provisions. The County will notify interested parties through listserv emails and by posting notification on the County website if the County rescinds, suspends, or amends this NOFA. This NOFA is not a commitment of funds to any activity or applicant.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ESG Grant Technical Assistance Online Workshop (REQUIRED) January 11, 2024, 1:00p.m.
 CA-ESG Grant Technical Assistance Online Workshop (REQUIRED) January 11, 2024, 3:00p.m.
 Session 1 – Questions and Answers Online Meeting (OPTIONAL) January 16, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
 Session 2 – Questions and Answers Online Meeting (OPTIONAL) January 23, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Grant Applications Due January 31, 2024, by 4:30 p.m.
 Grant Review Panel Presentations..... February 13, 14, and 15, 2024
 (Scheduled on a first come, first served basis.)
 Noticing of Application Scoring RankingFebruary, 2024
 Proposed Funding Recommendations Presented to BOS April, 2024
 Final Funding Recommendations Approved by BOS May, 2024
 Grantee Award Training June, 2024
 Agreements Released June, 2024

***All dates on timeline are subject to change**

GRANT REVIEW PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Presentations to the Grant Review Panel will be held via Zoom on February 13, 14, and 15, 2024. The purpose of these presentations is to give applicants the opportunity to give a 15-minute presentation about their proposal(s) to the Grant Review Panel. After the presentation, the panel will conduct a brief question and answer session with the applicant. Applicants will be registered for a presentation appointment at the time of the application submission. Time slots will be given on a first come, first served basis. Applicants are **REQUIRED** to attend their scheduled presentation to the Grant Review Panel.

ESG AND CA-ESG PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Federal ESG Program

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funds on an annual basis to entitlement jurisdictions. HUD's ESG program is intended to supplement state, local and private efforts to improve the quality and number of emergency shelters and transitional facilities for homeless people as well as to provide case management and financial assistance to prevent homelessness and to permanently re-house homeless persons. The ESG program provides funding to: (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street; (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents; (5) rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families; and (6) prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless.

HUD issued an interim rule for the ESG program on January 4, 2012. This rule amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act in accordance with the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), enacted into law on May 20, 2009. The interim rule established a list of eligible activities and allows the local grantees to select activities in accordance with its own community development objectives. An updated version of the ESG Program Interim Rule was published in the Federal Register on April 1, 2017. The updated version of the ESG Program Interim Rule incorporated the addition of section 576.409 regarding protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, which was established in response to the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

The federal ESG program is governed by 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 91 and 576. HUD's ESG program information is available online: [HUD Exchange](#).

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Stanislaus County is seeking grant applications for the awarding of ESG funds that can be expended between July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026. The number of ESG applications to be awarded is dependent on the actual amount of ESG funding provided by HUD to the Stanislaus Urban County.

ESTIMATED FY 24-25 ESG PROGRAM (ESG) FUNDS AVAILABLE:

\$200,000*

**Please see "Program Requirements" section for Estimated Allocation amounts per Eligible Activity. Stanislaus County award recommendations including caps and eligible activities may be increased or decreased based on the actual amount awarded by HUD.*

Designed as a first step in a Continuum of Care plan of assistance, the ESG program strives to address the immediate needs of persons residing on the street and needing emergency shelter, transitional housing, as well as assisting them in their path to independent living. While flexible in terms of serving all homeless subpopulations and preventing persons from becoming homeless, ESG program legislation and implementing regulations do limit the types of activities and amounts of funds that can be spent on different activities. The following categories of eligible activities and applicable limitations, including income eligibility limitations, are discussed in the "Program Requirements" section of these guidelines.

Stanislaus County, along with the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, and Waterford, form what is known as the Stanislaus Urban County, an entitlement jurisdiction. Stanislaus County serves as the "lead agency" for the Stanislaus Urban County.

As an entitlement jurisdiction, the Stanislaus Urban County is awarded ESG funds directly from HUD to facilitate programs meeting HUD's ESG program criteria.

Final award amounts will be verified via email after the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approves the final Stanislaus Urban County's FY 24-25 Annual Action Plan that includes final funding recommendations (estimated to occur in May 2024). Funding is on a reimbursement basis only and reimbursements will not be allowed until the awarded agencies are in a fully executed agreement with the County, as outlined in an official award letter.

State CA-ESG Program

The State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) administers the Emergency Solutions Grants (CA-ESG) program with funding received from HUD. In 2016 HCD established a dedicated Continuum of Care allocation and a simplified process to fund local government agencies to administer the CA-ESG funds.

Since 2016, Stanislaus County has been approved as an Administrative Entity (AE) by HCD and awarded CA-ESG funds for shelter and rental assistance activities, as outlined in HCD Annual Action Plan, as approved by HUD, to be utilized for providing services to the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless within the local Continuum of Care (CoC) Service Area.

In Stanislaus County, the CoC Service Area consists of the entire County, not excluding any cities. These funds are separate from the federal ESG funds that the Stanislaus Urban County receives as a HUD Entitlement Jurisdiction.

The CA-ESG program is governed by 25 California Code of Regulations, Section 8400 et seq (“State Regulations”). State regulations can be found on the California Department of Housing and Community Development [Emergency Solutions Grants Program \(ESG\)](#) web page.

Stanislaus County is seeking CA-ESG program applications in anticipation of being awarded the CA-ESG 2024 Allocation funding as the AE for the local CoC.

ESTIMATED STATE ESG PROGRAM (CA-ESG) 2024 ALLOCATION FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$293,304*

*The number of CA-ESG applications to be awarded is dependent on the actual amount of CA-ESG funding available from HCD and partial funding may be awarded, pending consultation with the applicant to verify that the proposed program/activity may be undertaken with partial funding.

In accordance with HCD’s CA-ESG program criteria, Stanislaus County anticipates awarding a minimum of two CA-ESG applications. However, the number of awards and funding amounts is dependent on the actual amount of CA-ESG funding provided to Stanislaus County. The awarding of funds will depend on when HCD’s agreement is fully executed with Stanislaus County and may take between 9-12 months after funding recommendations are approved by the Board of Supervisors. Funding reimbursements will not be allowed until the awarded agencies are in a fully executed agreement with the County, as outlined in an official award letter.

CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2024: The Stanislaus Urban County annually receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) entitlement funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Consolidated Plan is a document which provides an analysis of the existing resources and greatest needs in the County and lays out a five-year plan for how the Stanislaus Urban County’s entitlement funds will be utilized to meet these needs. The Fiscal Years (FYs) 2020-2024 Stanislaus Urban County Consolidated Plan, which applies to grant funds awarded from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025, was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on May 12, 2020.

The Stanislaus Urban County identifies its ESG targeted service areas through several combined methods. Community input for the FY 2020-2025 Stanislaus Urban County Consolidated Plan was collected through a series of public meetings and community surveys.

Eligible Stanislaus Urban County service areas can be identified online via the [Stanislaus County GIS](#) web page.

Information is also compiled from the County’s Continuum of Care’s annual Point in Time Homeless Count, Stanislaus Urban County member’s Housing Elements, and California State Department of Finance demographics reports. Collectively, this information serves as a guide for implementation of programs and for recommendations for competitive grant awards.

Grant applications received during this grant cycle are required to identify the problem(s) or need(s) in the community that the proposed program addresses. In addition to the identification of the needs and problems, statistical and/or demographic information is requested as part of the response in the grant application. By providing this information the

grant applicant assists in helping to address the public service-related priorities found within the Consolidated Plan.

The Stanislaus Urban County and City of Turlock Consortium Consolidated Plan Fiscal Year 2020-2025 is available online via the Stanislaus County Community Development Services [Plans and Reports](#) web page.

Racial Equity and Inclusion: This NOFA provides detailed information on the application process for ESG/CA-ESG funding. The critical priority for this funding is to ensure all eligible persons receive equitable access to services, and are served with dignity, respect, and compassion regardless of circumstance, ability, or identity, which includes marginalized populations, including but not limited to, Black, Native and Indigenous, Latin, Asian, Pacific Islanders and other people of color, immigrants, people with criminal records, people with disabilities, people with mental health and substance abuse vulnerabilities, people with limited English proficiency, people who identify as transgender, people who identify as LGBTQ+, and other individuals that may not traditionally access mainstream support. Additionally, its expected of eligible applicants to plan for how this funding will reduce disparities and increase racial equity in their communities.

HUD and HCD strongly recommends that grantees should prioritize the advancement of racial equity and inclusion at all levels of the homeless response system. Applicants will need to demonstrate how they will provide for and improve access to services, services provision, and outcomes among disproportionately underrepresented populations. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use racial equity resources, data toolkits, and research reports to identify disparities and implement responses. Please visit the [HUD Exchange Racial Equity](#) web page for additional information.

APPLICANT AGENCY THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS

All agencies applying for ESG or CA-ESG funding must meet the following threshold requirements:

Experience: Agencies applying must be an established, and operating not for profit, for profit or governmental agency as evidenced through documentation required in the application. Exhibits that show tax exempt status are required.

Faith-Based Agencies: Faith-based agencies are eligible to apply. HUD issued a final rule amendment allowing faith-based agencies to compete for ESG funding on the same basis as other non-profits; however, ESG funds cannot be used to support worship or religious instruction. Religious activities must be offered separately from the ESG supported activity. Faith-based agencies may not use direct ESG funds to support inherently religious activities such as worship or religious instruction. Faith-based agencies that participate in the ESG program shall not discriminate against a program beneficiary on the basis of religion or religious belief. Reference: CPD Notice 04-10.

Active Governing Body: Governance of agency should be vested in a responsible and active voluntary board, which meets at least quarterly. A copy of minutes authorizing agency staff to apply for ESG/CA-ESG funds or grants in general must be provided.

Personnel: The agency must provide for adequate staffing for the administration and delivery of the services proposed. If the project is accepted for funding, the agency must provide a copy of its Personnel Policies, Affirmative Action Plan, Drug-Free Workplace Policy and any other personnel related documents that the County and/or HUD may request.

Non-Discrimination: Each agency receiving funds from the County is required to assure that it will conduct its business in compliance with the non-discrimination requirements of the County, state and federal governments, as applicable. Equal Opportunity in Employment policies will be required.

Accounting: Agencies must comply with federal uniform administrative requirements regarding fiscal management including financial reporting, record keeping, accounting systems, payment procedures, procurement of goods and services, conflict of interest, and audit requirements. Non-profit agencies must administer programs in compliance with OMB Uniform Guidance set forth in 2 CFR Part 200. Federal guidelines and regulations are available online via the National Archives Code of Federal Regulations [Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200](#) web page.

Costs must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance and administration of the grant. Costs must be adequately documented. Agencies may be required to submit information regarding their accounting systems to Stanislaus County's Department of Planning and Community Development for approval before any funds are disbursed.

Audits and Financial Reports: An agency must provide a copy of its most recent Independent Audit and Management Letter. Non-Federal entities that expend \$750,000 or more in a year in federal awards shall have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year. Non-Federal entities that expend less than \$750,000 a year in federal awards must

submit a financial statement and other supporting documents to show how the ESG funds were utilized. Local governments and nonprofit agencies are required to comply with 24 CFR 570.502-Applicability of Uniform Administrative Requirements and the requirements and standards of 2 CFR 200.420-200.475 (formerly OMB Circular A-133 "Audits of States, local governments, and non-profit agencies"), OMB Circular A-133 includes Institutions of higher education and hospitals.

Insurance: An agency that is applying must provide evidence of insurance, including, but not limited to, multi-peril property and liability, medical, workers' compensation, automobile liability, professional liability, and other coverage as deemed necessary by Stanislaus County and shall include indemnification and hold harmless language acceptable to Stanislaus County. All certificates and endorsements are to be received and approved by Stanislaus County before a program can be considered for final approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Site Control: Agency must provide proof of site control of location(s) they will be conducting their program.

Program Guidelines: Agency must have established program guidelines, available for client review, including eligibility criteria, a termination of services policy, and program participation rules and regulations.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

ESG program regulations allow the use of funding for street outreach, emergency shelter, homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, and Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) activities identified below; however, the use of funding for certain activities may be disallowed by either HUD or HCD for any particular funding allocation. If HUD or HCD disallow the use of funding for an activity, the County will disqualify that grant application.

NEW- CA-ESG POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE COUNTY AND HCD PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF A STANDARD AGREEMENT. If applicant is awarded the Policies and Procedures are due to staff within 30 days of being notified of their ranking score.

The awarded funding will be adjusted proportionally amongst the higher-ranking grant applicants. The following are ESG and/or CA-ESG activities and estimated funding limits:

Emergency Shelter Activities

Maximum award request capped at 60% of ESG allocation (estimated award available \$120,000).

Maximum award request capped at 60% of CA-ESG allocation (estimated award available \$175,982).

- **Emergency Shelter:** Funds for facilities providing overnight shelter to homeless families and individuals including:
 - Shelter Operational Costs
 - Essential Services for Shelter Clients
 - Case Management
 - Child Care
 - Education Services
 - Employment Assistance and Job Skills Training
 - Outpatient Health Services
 - Legal Services
 - Life Skills Training
 - Mental Health Services (*if otherwise unavailable to the client*)
 - Substance Abuse Treatment Services (*if otherwise unavailable to the client*)
 - Transportation (*for client to and from medical care, employment, childcare, or other eligible essential services, includes public transportation costs, or for staff for client home visits, for facility vehicle leasing costs when used specifically for transporting clients to and from medical care, employment, childcare, or other eligible essential services*)
 - Services for Special Populations (*homeless youth, victim services, persons living with HIV/AIDS provided the services are one of those listed above*)

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Activities

No cap on award request for ESG Allocation (estimated minimum award available \$80,000)
No cap on award request for CA-ESG Allocation (estimated minimum award available \$117,322)

- **Homeless Prevention:** Services that provide housing relocation and stabilization and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance necessary to prevent an individual or family who fits under the “at-risk of homelessness” definition from becoming homeless; including:
 - Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services
 - Financial Assistance Costs (*includes rental application fees, security deposits, last month’s rent, utility deposits, utility payments, and moving costs*)
 - Services Cost
 - Housing Search and Placement (*staff time spent assisting clients in locating, obtaining and retaining housing*)
 - Housing Stability Case Management (*staff time spent assessing, arranging, coordinating, and monitoring the client’s progress towards achieving housing stability*)
 - Mediation (*between the client and landlord*)
 - Legal Services (*necessary to resolve a legal problem that prohibits the program participant from obtaining permanent housing or will likely result in the program participant losing the permanent housing in which the program participant currently resides*)
 - Credit Repair (*cannot be used to pay down client debt*)
 - Rental Assistance
 - Short-term Rental Assistance (*up to three months*)
 - Medium-term Rental Assistance (*4 – 24 months*)
 - Payment of Rental Arrears (*one-time payment for up to six months of rental arrears, including any applicable late fees*)
- **Rapid Re-Housing:** Services that provide housing relocation and stabilization and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance necessary to move an individual or family who fits under the “homeless” definition into permanent housing; including:
 - Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services
 - Financial Assistance Costs (*includes rental application fees, security deposits, last month’s rent, utility deposits, utility payments, moving costs*)
 - Services Cost
 - Housing Search and Placement (*staff time spent assisting clients in locating, obtaining and retaining housing*)
 - Housing Stability Case Management (*staff time spent assessing, arranging, coordinating, and monitoring the client’s progress towards achieving housing stability*)
 - Mediation (*between the client and landlord*)
 - Legal Services (*necessary to resolve a legal problem that prohibits the program participant from obtaining permanent housing or will likely result in the program participant losing the permanent housing in which the program participant currently resides*)
 - Credit Repair (*cannot be used to pay down client debt*)
 - Rental Assistance
 - Short-term Rental Assistance (*up to three months*)
 - Medium-term Rental Assistance (*4 – 24 months*)
 - Payment of Rental Arrears (*one-time payment for up to six months of rental arrears, including any applicable late fees*)

Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)

Maximum award request capped at 7.5% of ESG allocation (estimated award available \$15,000).
HMIS is not an awarded activity under the CA-ESG allocation.

Participation in HMIS is required for both the ESG and CA-ESG programs. HMIS eligible expenses include:

- Data Entry
- Hardware and Software
- Reporting
- Technical Support

- Participation Fees/Software

ESG and CA-ESG applications are also required to meet the following program requirements:

- **100% Matching Funding**
- **Site Control** – Agency must provide proof of site control of location(s) they will be conducting their program.
- **Termination Procedures**
- **Case Management**
- **Eligibility Re-Assessments** – Homeless Prevention every three months and Rapid Re-housing annually.
- **Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System** – Subrecipients are required to use a centralized or coordinated assessment system, as required by HUD and/or HCD, to assess the eligibility and needs of each individual or family who seeks homeless assistance or homelessness prevention assistance.
- **Habitability Standards** – Units receiving ESG/CA-ESG rental assistance must pass a minimum threshold of habitability, including lead-based paint, to be verified by Stanislaus County.
- **Rental Agreement for Property Manager/Landlord**
- **Rental Agreement or Lease in Client’s Name**
- **Landlord and or Property Owner Agreement with Agency**
- **Fair Market Rent (FMR) and Rent Reasonableness Calculations**

ESG and CA-ESG programs must meet the following Income Eligibility Limits and Client Date requirements:

Income Eligibility Limits: ESG and CA-ESG programs must serve **very low-income households** (at or below 30% of the area median income), **homeless persons, or those at-risk of homelessness.**

Income eligibility is determined by “**family size**”. HUD’s definition of *family* (24 CFR 5.403) includes but is not limited to: (1) A single person, who may be an elderly person, displaced person, disabled person, near-elderly person, or any other single person; or (2) A group of persons residing together, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. Very-low-income families are defined as those at or below 30% of the area median income.

Information on ESG and CA-ESG program income limits is available on the HUD User [Income Limits](#) web page. Household income limits are updated annually by HUD.

Income verification is required for Homeless Assistance at initial intake and at the annual reassessment, not upon program entry. When an activity provides services specific to housing, then income eligibility is determined by **Household Size**, which includes every person residing within the home.

Client Data: The agency is required to obtain, update, and maintain individual client files documenting program eligibility and statistical data including but not limited to income eligibility verification, U.S. Census Bureau Race and Ethnicity breakdowns, disability, female head of household, and clients 62 years of age and older.

ESG Program Resource: [ESG Eligible Activities - Overview - HUD Exchange](#)

SCORING CRITERIA

HUD allows the Stanislaus Urban County, and HCD allows Stanislaus County, to award grants in accordance with its own community development objectives. The Grant Review Panel will score grant applications based on the scoring criteria outlined in this section. The cumulative scores will be used to determine funding award recommendations. Final funding amounts also depend on eligible budget requests, project compliance with HUD and/or HCD program regulations, service area and populations served, and funding availability.

Below is a summary of the scoring criteria to be used by the Grant Review Panel to evaluate each application (listed in no particular order):

- **Capacity and Experience** – Does the agency have experience and capacity to successfully implement the proposed program? Does the program have a sustainability outlook?
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Addressing the Need/Extent of the Problem** – Is the proposed program addressing a critical Stanislaus Urban County community need, as described in the Consolidated Plan? Does the agency’s program demonstrate

accessible, equitable, inclusive and culturally appropriate approach by creating opportunities for disadvantaged groups of people?

(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)

- **Collaboration** – What is the degree of agency participation within the local community, including its collaborative efforts with other agencies and committees? If the program serves homeless populations, does the agency participate in the local Continuum of Care (CoC) and CoC related activities?
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Accomplishments and Program Evaluation** – Is there a solid methodology in place for determining client eligibility and for tracking numbers served? Are accomplishments measurable in terms of evaluating the impact they will have in the community, both long-term and short-term? An applicant should demonstrate commitment to address racial equity and inclusion at all levels. Applicants will need to demonstrate how they will provide for and improve access to services, services provision, and outcomes among disproportionately underrepresented populations.
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Financials** – Will the ESG/CA-ESG grant pay for the whole program? If there is outside funding, from whom, what kind, and is the outside funding committed? ESG/CA-ESG funding assistance that is awarded to agencies is intended to be supplemental.
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Performance and Risk Assessment** – How will the proposed services be implemented? Who will implement the proposed services? What will be the frequency and duration of the proposed services? Has the agency had any issues with expending all their past or current funding? Are there any serious performance issues in past grants awarded to the agency? Are there any inconsistencies between the agency's answers and performance reports.? This section is based on a combination of ESG Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) reports reflecting past expenditures and grants awarded by the County. The timeliness drawing down of grant funds and meeting of their targeted number of clients to be assisted will be evaluated.
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Program Innovation** – Does the proposed program introduce an innovation that substantially improves the services proposed/provided? Will there be an expansion of services, are details provided? Does the proposed program go beyond the usual approach by showing it addresses a new need and/or issue or addresses a population need and/or issue that has yet to be addressed?
(Maximum Points Available: 30 Points)
- **Grant Submittal** – This section is a combination of the application submitted and the presentation by the applicant. Is the grant application clear and accurate? Does the presentation align with the submitted application? Did the presentation clear up any concerns or questions regarding the application?
(Maximum Points Available: 10 Points)

The scoring criteria factors to be used by the Grant Review Panel are provided to potential applicants at the Grant Technical Assistance Workshop. The Grant Review Panel will be comprised of one representative from the County, one city representative from each of the seven Stanislaus Urban County city members, and one representative from the local Continuum of Care (CoC). The CA-ESG grant review panel will be comprised of representatives from the County, the nine cities located within Stanislaus County, and the CoC.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCIES AWARDED FUNDING

Agencies awarded ESG or CA-ESG funding must follow these program requirements:

Grantee Technical Workshop: Agencies will be required to attend a pre-award grantee technical workshop prior to the release of their funding agreement to assist them in compliance with program regulations and requirements. Agencies will be instructed on how utilize the Neighborly Participant Portal, submit data reports, Request for Funds (RFF) form, and Detailed Expense Report (DER) form, and other program related forms to the County.

Documents Needed: Funded agencies will be required to execute an agreement with Stanislaus County and provide the required insurance certificates and endorsements prior to the signing of an agreement. Agencies are required to provide a copy of its Personnel Policies, Affirmative Action Plan, and its Drug-Free Workplace Policy and other required documents before entering into an agreement.

Reporting and Records: Stanislaus County, HUD, and/or HCD shall have access to all program records. Agencies will be required to obtain and provide individual client data including, but not limited to ethnicity, income, disability,

race, female head of household, clients 62 years and older and accomplishment data. Quarterly and year-end performance reports are required to be entered and submitted through the Neighborly Participant Portal. Agencies shall also provide any additional reporting and records related to the program as requested. Grant files and individual client files must be maintained for a minimum of five years after the expiration of the funding agreement.

Protecting Personally Identifiable Information (PII): Agencies must keep all client information, including credit reports, confidential and secure. Any agency staff who interact with clients and collect personal information should be trained on privacy issues and procedures to safeguard data with client information. Further laws and regulations on PII are available online via HUD's [Protecting PII Guidelines](#).

Request for Funds Process: Invoicing for ESG/CA-ESG funds is required at a minimum on a quarterly basis. Request for Funds (RFF) forms also referred to as Draw Requests will be submitted in the Neighborly Participant Portal. A Detailed Expense Report form will be available in the Neighborly Participant Portal for grantees to complete and submit. ESG/CA-ESG funds are provided on a reimbursement basis and supporting documentation must be complete and approved by County staff prior to the release of the funding reimbursement.

Monitoring and Technical Assistance: The program will be monitored by County staff for compliance with County, HUD, and/or HCD requirements and regulations. HUD and/or HCD staff may also monitor the program for compliance during and up to five years after the funding agreement expires. Program requirements including performance, accomplishments, eligibility, and expenditures will be included in monitoring desk and on-site reviews. The County will provide technical assistance as needed or if requested to assist with the project progress and success. If the agency is not following the program requirements and regulations, funding may be recaptured, and reimbursement of funds may be required.

Detailed Requested Budget: The Detailed Requested Budget section of the application must specifically detail the "Total Requested Amount" of the grant proposal and **NOT** the entire agency's program budget or the agency's entire budget. Agencies will be required to follow application budget line-item amounts when requesting funds. Ensure line items are feasible and give the agency flexibility in program expenditures.

Fiscal Management: Agencies must comply with federal uniform administrative requirements regarding fiscal management including financial reporting, record keeping, accounting systems, payment procedures, procurement of goods and services, conflict of interest, and audit requirements. Non-profit agencies must administer programs in compliance with OMB Uniform Guidance set forth in 2 CFR Part 200. Federal guidelines and regulations are available on the National Archives Code of Federal Regulations [Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200](#) web page.

Costs must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance and administration of the grant. Costs must be adequately documented.

Eligible Expenses Include But Are Not Limited To: ESG and/or CA-ESG funds may be used to pay for labor, supplies, and materials as well as to operate and/or maintain the portion of a facility in which the public service is located. This includes the lease of a facility, equipment, and other property needed for the public service. Costs incurred for telephone services, local and long-distance telephone calls, postage, messenger, electronic or computer transmittal services and the like are allowable.

- **Salaries:** Salary and fringe benefits (fringe is limited to 20% of total salary costs) in the form of regular compensation paid to employees during periods of authorized absences from the job, such as vacation leave, sick leave, military leave, and the like, are allowable, provided such costs are absorbed by all agency activities in proportion to the relative amount of time or effort actually devoted to each. Time sheets will be required to document expenses for staff and allowable time should be adjusted by the staff percentages of time allocated on the project as listed in the application. Paid Time-off (PTO), overtime, and bonuses are not allowable expenses.

Ineligible Expenses Include But Are Not Limited To: ESG and/or CA-ESG funds may not be used to pay for food/meals for staff, fund raising, entertainment, alcoholic beverages, deposits on equipment, incentives to clients (gift cards, raffle prizes, holiday gifts, prizes for social activities), and late fees or penalties. Below are some examples of ineligible expenses, taken from ESG Program Guidelines:

- **Promotion of Agency:** Costs of advertising and public relations designed solely to promote the non-profit agency including costs of promotional items and memorabilia, including models, gifts, and souvenirs, are not allowed.
- **Contributions or Donations:** Contributions or donations, including cash, property, and services, made by the agency, regardless of the recipient, are unallowable.

- **Entertainment Costs:** Costs of entertainment, including amusement, diversion, and social activities and any costs directly associated with such costs (such as tickets to shows or sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities) are unallowable.
- **Fund-Raising:** Costs of organized fund raising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred solely to raise capital or obtain contributions, are unallowable.
- **Goods or Services for Personal Use:** Costs of goods or services for personal use of the organization's employees are unallowable.

Match Funding: In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 576.51, all agencies awarded ESG and CA-ESG funds, must provide evidence of 100% match funds with each Request for Funds submittal. Matching contributions may be obtained from any source, including any federal source other than the ESG and CA-ESG program, as well as state, local, and private sources. In order to meet the matching requirement, the matching contributions must meet the following criteria:

- (i) The recipient must ensure the laws governing any funds to be used as matching contributions do not prohibit those funds from being used to match Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and (CA-ESG) funds.
- (ii) If ESG and/or CA-ESG funds are used to satisfy the matching requirements of another federal program, then funding from that program may not be used to satisfy the matching requirements under this section.
- (iii) Contributions used to match a previous ESG/CA-ESG grant may not be used to match a subsequent ESG/CA-ESG grant.
- (iv) Match funds must be provided after the date that HUD or HCD signs the grant agreement.
- (v) Cash match contributions must be expended within the expenditure deadline in §576.203.
- (vi) Non-cash contributions must be made within the expenditure deadline in §576.203.
- (vii) Non-cash contributions. The value of any real property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the sub-recipient's ESG/CA-ESG program. To determine the value of any donated material or building, or of any lease, the recipient must use a method reasonably calculated to establish the fair market value.

HMIS and CES: Participation in the local Continuum of Care's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Coordinated Entry System (CES) is required.

COMBATTING FRAUD

The HUD Office of Inspector General (OIG) is committed to protecting HUD's programs, operations, and beneficiaries from dishonest individuals and agencies.

HUD relies on counties, cities, applicants, and people receiving HUD assistance to combat ESG program fraud.

The HUD OIG Hotline number is **1-800-347-3735**. This is the primary means to submit allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, or Whistleblower related matters for the ESG program to the OIG.

HUD OIG accepts reports of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement in the ESG program from HUD employees, anyone administering the ESG program, anyone working in the ESG program, contractors, and the public.

Mismanagement or violations of law, rules, or regulations by HUD employees or program participants can be reported. Fraud, Waste and Abuse in the ESG program and its operation may be reported in one of the following four (4) ways:

1. **By Email:** hotline@hudoig.gov
2. **By Toll Free Phone:** 1-800-347-3735
3. **By Fax:** (202) 708-4829
4. **By Mail:** Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Inspector General Hotline Manager
400 Virginia Avenue, SW, Suite 120
Washington, DC 20024

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

ESG: Limit is one grant application submission per activity and up to a maximum of two grant application submissions per agency. In order for a program to qualify as a separate “activity” it must either:

1. Serve a different population and be administered out of a separate location with separate staff; or
2. Offer a service that is completely separate from other applications submitted by the same agency.

CA-ESG: Limit is one grant application submission per agency.

Partial funding may be awarded, pending consultation with the agency to verify that the proposed program/activity may be undertaken with partial funding.

Only complete applications will be eligible for funding. All sections of the application must be filled out and all applicable documents, throughout and as identified in the “Additional Required Documents” section of the application must be included or the application will be considered incomplete. Any missing required documentation will render the application incomplete.

GRANT SUBMISSION PROCESS

County staff will host grant technical assistance workshops for ESG and CA-ESG program grant applications on **Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. for ESG and 3:00 p.m for CA-ESG.** The grant technical assistance workshops will also include guidance on how to access the Neighborly Participant Portal. Attendance is **REQUIRED** by any agencies interested in submitting a grant application before investing the time and resources to apply.

Applicants must follow instructions in this NOFA and Grant Application Guidelines and the grant application. It is strongly encouraged that applicants have all required documents on hand when completing the application. Failure to follow instructions and submit all required documentation will result in disqualification.

Once submitted, applications must stand on their own. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the submitted application is clear, complete, and accurate. County staff may request clarifying information but is unable to accept any new documentation that would provide an unfair advantage over other applications. It is strongly recommended that all documents be reviewed and saved to their own electronic files prior to submission.

The grant application and all required attachments must be submitted to the County through the Neighborly Participant Portal. Applicants must certify that all information is true and complete to the best of their knowledge, under penalty of perjury Per 83 FR 5848 “Any person who knowingly makes a false claim or statement to HUD may be subject to civil or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. §287, 1001 and 31 U.S.C. §3729.”

To submit an application, applicants that do not already have a Neighborly account will need to create one. Only authorized signers of an agency submitting an application should register as an account user. The application will need to be electronically signed by an authorized individual of the agency. There is no cost associated with a Neighborly Participant Portal account. Please [click here](#) to create an account.

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSIONS

To assist applicants with the application process County staff will be hosting two **OPTIONAL** virtual Questions and Answers sessions.

- Session 1 – January 16, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please [Click Here](#) to join the meeting.
- Session 2 – January 23, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please [Click Here](#) to join the meeting.

*County staff is available to help throughout the application process via phone: (209) 525-6330 and email: CommunityDevelopment@stancounty.com. The Questions and Answers sessions are additional resources available for applicants to utilize.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

All applicants must register online through the Stanislaus County [Neighborhoodly Participant Portal](#).

After registering and logging in, click on the applicable application link on the home page to apply.

When using the Neighborhoodly Participant Portal please keep in mind the following: The Neighborhoodly Participant Portal does **not** automatically save your work – SAVED APPLICATIONS ARE NOT THE SAME AS SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS.

- There is a save option and applicants are strongly encouraged to save their progress as they work on their application.
- To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted prior to the **January 31, 2024, 4:30 p.m.** deadline.

Note that the successful submission of a grant application through the Neighborhoodly Participant Portal is not a formal acceptance of the application. All application submissions will be reviewed by County staff for basic program eligibility and application completeness. Please ensure that all questions and applicable fields are completed. Also ensure that all required documents have been uploaded.

Any missing required documentation will render the application incomplete, and it will not be considered for funding.

Late applications will not be accepted.

The deadline to submit grant applications via the Neighborhoodly Participant Portal is **Wednesday, January 31, 2024, by 4:30 p.m.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact County staff by phone at: (209) 525-6330 or via email at: CommunityDevelopment@stancounty.com.