



# ESG-CV REGULATIONS & VOUCHERING

Presented by CARES of NY, Inc.



# PURPOSE & GOAL

1. To review opportunities and waivers in ESG-CV regulations that:
  - a. Impact your projects
  - b. Impact planning for ESG-CV2 funds
2. To provide a high-level overview of vouchering process



# AGENDA

1. Define ESG Eligible Activities
2. Provide Overview of ESG-CV Regulations
3. Provide a FAQ Overview
4. Review Schenectady ESG-CV1 Projects and discuss next steps
5. Provide an Overview of the Vouchering Process



# ESG ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Rapid Rehousing
- Homeless Prevention
- HMIS
- Administrative Activities (for recipient)

(24 CFR Part 576)



# DEFINING ESG-CV

- The CARES Act designates 4 billion dollars for the Emergency Solution Grant Program
- Funding was designated to prevent, prepare for, respond to and mitigate the impact created by the coronavirus for household entering and currently utilizing the homeless service system

# ESG-CV REGULATIONS



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

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**Special Attention of:**

All CPD Directors  
HUD Field Offices  
HUD Regional Offices  
All Continuums of Care  
All ESG Program Recipients and Subrecipients

**Notice:** CPD-20-08

**Issued:** September 1, 2020

**Expires:** This notice is effective until amended, superseded, or rescinded.

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**TITLE:** Waivers and Alternative Requirements for the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program Under the CARES Act

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 1, 2020

**SUMMARY:** This Notice announces the allocation formula, amounts, and requirements for the additional \$3.96 billion in funding provided for the Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). These ESG-CV funds must be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts created by coronavirus. Requirements at 24 CFR Part 576 will apply to the use of these funds, unless otherwise provided by the alternative requirements and flexibilities established under the CARES Act, this Notice, or subsequent waivers, amendments or replacements to this Notice. The alternative requirements established by this Notice that limit activities in comparison with the requirements in 24 CFR 576 and the CARES Act are not retroactive. Accordingly, any ESG or ESG-CV activities included in an action plan or substantial amendment for which HUD completed its review must comply with the requirements in effect at the time of the recipient's consolidated plan submission, except where this Notice provides new flexibility as authorized by the CARES Act.

**OVERVIEW INFORMATION**



# PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- ESG Requirements apply except:
  1. Emergency Shelter and Outreach cap waived
  2. Pre-Award costs are eligible

(CPD-20-08, pg. 10-11, 19)



# ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Temporary Emergency Shelters
- Training
- Hazard Pay
- Handwashing Stations and Portable Bathrooms
- Landlord Incentives
- Volunteer Incentives

(CPD-20-08, pg. 11-13)





# WAIVERS, REQUIREMENTS & FLEXIBILITIES

- Emergency Shelter Timeframe for Costs
- Rental Assistance
- Hotel/Motel costs
- 24-month assistance over 3-years Cap
- Legal Services

(CPD-20-08, pg. 14-16)



# PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Housing Stability Case Management
- Duplication of Benefits
- Provision of Support Services – Housing First

(CPD-20-08, pg. 16-18)



# POLICY PRIORITIES

- Selecting Subrecipients – This may include funding those not currently or previously funded through ESG
- Providing Essential Services to promote Independent Living, sobriety, employment, self-sufficiency, and Residential Stability
- Prioritize households based on need
- Use funds to prevent the spread of the coronavirus
- Use funds to quickly provide needed connections to housing

(CPD-20-08, pg. 22)



# SPENDING DOWN FUNDING

- Requirements:
  - At least **20% of funds**, including first and second round allocations, must be spent by **9/30/2021**
  - At least **80% of funds**, including first and second round allocations, must be spent by **3/31/2022**
  - **Shelter** funds must be spent by **1/31/2022**
  - Essential to avoid recapture of funds by HUD
- Flexibility: if necessary, can move funds between eligible activities

(CPD-20-08, pg. 8-9)



# REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. CAPER
2. Quarterly reports



# IMPORTANT FAQ'S ANSWERED!



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# FAQ

1. How do I document that funds are being used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus?



# FAQ (CONT'D)

2. Do the existing CARES Act waivers apply to ESG-CV funds?





## FAQ (CONT'D)

3. Am I allowed to utilize the waivers/flexibilities listed in the ESG-CV Regulations for my normal ESG projects?



## FAQ (CONT'D)

4. Am I allowed to utilize prevention funding during the eviction moratorium?



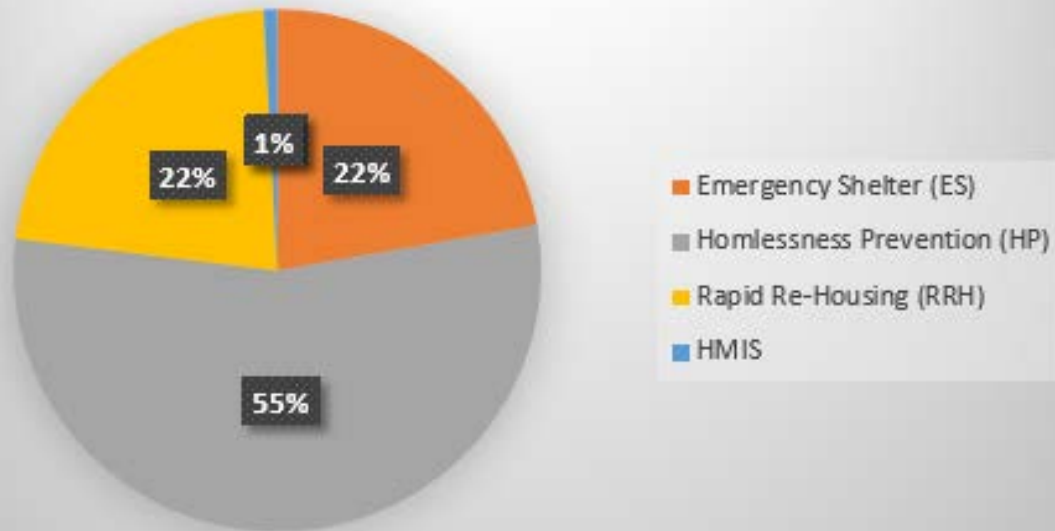
# SCHENECTADY'S ESG-CV1 PLAN

Questions & Discussion

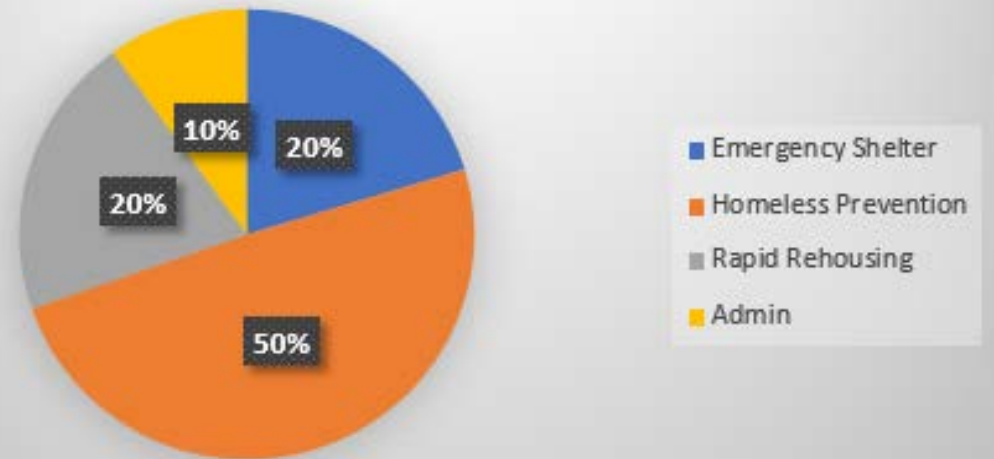


# SCHENECTADY'S ESG-CV1 PLAN

## Schenectady ESG-CV Projects



## Schenectady County ESG-CV Projects (OTDA)





# NEXT STEPS FOR PLANNING

- Set up projects in HMIS (CARES)
- Begin planning for ESG-CV2 projects
- Edit Written Standards

# ESG-CV VOUCHERING: AN OVERVIEW



# CARES' ROLE

- CARES is the Administrator in the City and Lead Contractor in each County; CARES is responsible for things like:
  - Preparing contracts for signature on behalf of the grantee
  - Overseeing the vouchering process
  - Monitoring agencies on behalf of the grantee
  - Helping the grantee to complete final reports
  - Facilitating regular meetings with subrecipients
    - *More details to come.*

# VOUCHER PROCESSES

## OTDA Funded Projects

Submit Excel Vouchers & backups to CARES on rolling basis.

CARES reviews vouchers on a rolling basis and approves for payment through Grants Gateway on a quarterly basis by the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, March, June, and September.

As Lead Contractor, CARES will submit vouchers with all appropriate back up and supplemental documents through Grants Gateway (mandated by OTDA).

Once CARES receives payment from OTDA, CARES will ACH payment directly to subrecipients' bank accounts.

## Entitlement/City Funded Projects

Submit Excel Vouchers & backups to CARES by the end of each month.

CARES Reviews vouchers monthly (within 10 days of receipt). Agencies will be notified if their voucher has been approved or denied.

CARES will submit approved vouchers to the City of Schenectady and the City will reimburse CARES.

Once CARES has received payment from the City, CARES will pay subrecipients via bank transfer.



# NEXT STEPS FOR VOUCHERING

- Pre-populated Excel voucher templates will be sent to subrecipients upon execution of contracts
  - Be on the lookout for an email from [mvandeusen@caresny.org](mailto:mvandeusen@caresny.org) with your project voucher template!
- All agencies will be invited to a webinar on the vouchering process for ESG-CV funds using the excel voucher templates. More information will be emailed in the coming weeks with information about dates and times for these webinars.
  - Training materials will also be provided after webinars.
- For any questions related to vouchering or eligible expenses under ESG-CV, please reach out to Maureen Van Deusen at [mvandeusen@caresny.org](mailto:mvandeusen@caresny.org)