

## **Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care ESG and CoC Written Standards**

### **INTRODUCTION**

These written standards apply to all Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care (CoC) contracts and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) subrecipients. These standards must consistently be applied for the benefit of all program participants. These standards do not replace policies and procedures created by homeless services providers, but rather they provide an overall context for programs funded with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding.

Prioritization for the activities included in this document will follow the adopted Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Policies and Procedures.

ESG and CoC subrecipients agree to share client level records with the ESG recipients and/or the CoC Collaborative Applicant, as applicable, including HMIS data records through the HMIS system and in accordance with approved Continuum of Care (CoC) data sharing policies and procedures.

### **ELIGIBLE ESG ACTIVITIES**

#### **HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION**

ESG funds may be used to provide housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and/or medium-term rental assistance necessary to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the “homeless” definition in § 576.2. This assistance, referred to as homelessness prevention, may be provided to individuals and families who meet the criteria under the “at risk of homelessness” definition, or who meet the criteria in paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of the “homeless” definition in § 576.2 and have an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD. The costs of homelessness prevention are only eligible to the extent that the assistance is necessary to help the program participant regain stability in the program participant’s current permanent housing or move into other permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Homelessness prevention must be provided in accordance with the housing relocation and stabilization services requirements in § 576.105, the short-term and medium-term rental assistance requirements in § 576.106, and the written standards and procedures established under § 576.400.

#### **Eligibility:**

Category (2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

- (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
- (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and
- (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing

Category (3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

- (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes
- (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless application

- (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the preceding 60 days; and
- (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers

Category (4) Any individual or family who:

- (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
- (ii) Has no other residence; and
- (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

Has an annual income below 30% of AMI.

### **STREET OUTREACH**

ESG funds may be used for costs of providing essential services necessary to reach out to unsheltered homeless people; connect them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services; and provide urgent, nonfacility-based care to unsheltered homeless people who are unwilling or unable to access emergency shelter, housing, or an appropriate health facility. For the purposes of this section, the term “unsheltered homeless people” means individuals and families who qualify as homeless under paragraph (1)(i) of the “homeless” definition under § 576.2.

#### **Eligibility:**

Category (1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
- (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

### **EMERGENCY SHELTER**

The term Emergency Shelter per 24 CFR Part 576.2 means ‘any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements’. This definition excludes transitional housing. However, projects that were funded as emergency shelter (shelter operations) under the FY 2010 Emergency Shelter Grants program may continue to be funded under the emergency shelter component of the Emergency Solutions Grants program, regardless of whether the project meets the definition in 24 CFR Part 576.2.

#### **Eligibility:**

Category (1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
- (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

Category (4) Any individual or family who:

- (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
- (ii) Has no other residence; and
- (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

### **ELIGIBLE COC ACTIVITIES**

#### **TRANSITIONAL SHELTER**

CoC Funds may be used to provide transitional housing where all program participants have signed a lease or occupancy agreement, the purpose of which is to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families into permanent housing within 24 months or such longer period as HUD determines necessary. The program participant must have a lease or occupancy agreement for a term of at least one month that ends in 24 months and cannot be extended.

#### **Eligibility**

This assistance may be provided to individuals and families who meet the criteria in category (1) (2), (3), or (4) of the “homeless” definition in § 583.5 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining “Homelessness” Final Rule, 24 CFR Parts 91, 582, and 583.

#### **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

CoC funds may be used to provide permanent supportive housing—permanent housing in which supportive services are provided to assist homeless persons with a disability to live independently. PSH can only provide assistance to individuals with disabilities and families in which one adult or child has a disability. Supportive services designed to meet the needs of the program participants must be made available to the program participants.

## **Eligibility**

This assistance may be provided to individuals and families who meet the criteria in category (1) and/or (4) of the “homeless” definition § 583.5 and “disability” definition § 582.5 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining “Homelessness” Final Rule, 24 CFR Parts 91, 582, and 583.

### **ELIGIBLE COC AND ESG ACTIVITIES**

#### **RAPID REHOUSING**

ESG and/or CoC funds may be used to provide housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

The Maricopa County Continuum of Care approved a financial assistance policy for Rapid Rehousing on January 30, 2017.

## **Eligibility**

Category (1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
- (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

Category (4) Any individual or family who:

- (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
- (ii) Has no other residence; and
- (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

## **Regulation References**

### **24 CFR 576.400(e)**

*(e) Written standards for providing ESG assistance.*

**(1)** If the recipient is a metropolitan city, urban county, or territory, the recipient must have written standards for providing Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) assistance and must consistently apply those standards for all program participants. The recipient must describe these standards in its consolidated plan.

### **24 CFR 578.7(a)(9)**

(9) In consultation with recipients of Emergency Solutions Grants program funds within the geographic area, establish and consistently follow written standards for providing Continuum of Care assistance. At a minimum, these written standards must include:

(i) Policies and procedures for evaluating individuals' and families' eligibility for assistance under this part;

(ii) Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive transitional housing assistance;

(iii) Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive rapid rehousing assistance;

(iv) Standards for determining what percentage or amount of rent each program participant must pay while receiving rapid rehousing assistance;

(v) Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive permanent supportive housing assistance; and

(vi) Where the Continuum is designated a high-performing community, as described in subpart G of this part, policies and procedures set forth in 24 CFR 576.400(e)(3)(vi), (e)(3)(vii), (e)(3)(viii), and (e)(3)(ix).