



Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing Under the ESG Program (RUSH)



RUSH Overview

- Special allocation of Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding
- Can be used to address housing and services needs of people experiencing homelessness whose needs are exacerbated by disasters, and people who are at risk of longer-term homelessness as a result of disasters
- Fills a gap in federal disaster assistance for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness
- Focused on disaster declared geographies

Eligible Activities

- Emergency Shelter (Congregate and Non-Congregate)
- Rapid re-housing or Homelessness Prevention
 - Short/Medium term rental assistance (Up to 24 months)
 - Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services
 - Financial assistance for move in costs,
 - Supportive services for people currently experiencing homelessness;
- Street Outreach Services
- HMIS
- Administration

RUSH Funding Allocations

First Allocation

Determined based on the number of persons experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness (based on the most recent Point-in-Time count) in counties or local municipalities for which TSA is made available and the Fair Market Rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in those areas.

Second Allocation

A second allocation would be based on data that becomes available on unmet needs and damage assessments.

RUSH Funding Allocations

First Allocation

\$3,000,000

Second Allocation

\$1,917,410

RUSH Operates Like ESG (not ESG-CV)

Follow the ESG Program Regs: 24 CFR 576 except for the special grant requirements identified in your RUSH award letter:

- Program participant eligibility
- Match & program income
- Pre-award costs
- Previously granted regulatory waivers
- Duplication of Benefits
- Environmental review process during emergencies following disasters
- Con Plan Citizen Participation & Consultation requirements
- CoC Consultation requirements

Target Population

Three eligibility factors must be met:

- 1 be homeless or at risk of homelessness
- 2 have been residing in an area affected by a major disaster declared pursuant to the Stafford Act on or after December 20, 2019 (e.g., an area covered by DR-4673-FL, dated September 29, 2022); **AND**
- 3 have needs that will not be served or fully met by the TSA Program (42 USC 5170b) and other existing Federal disaster relief programs (including both Federal and non-Federal cost share).

If already found eligible for ESG *prior* to the disaster, households are not required to re-qualify as homeless or at risk of homelessness for assistance under RUSH

Special RUSH Requirements

- No match requirements
- Pre-award costs may be incurred by the recipient or subrecipient as of the award date 11/7/24
- Duplication of Benefits – see the Quick Guide
- Waivers are applicable

FMR

24 month limit on housing stability activities

Subleasing

Homelessness in Disasters



Pre-Disaster
Homelessness



Precariously Housed
People who become
homeless because of
the disaster



People who receive
TSA but it's not enough
to help them stabilize &
they become homeless

Benefits of Instituting a Disaster Policy

Policy that allows the ESG recipient to make targeted funding decisions in response to a disaster

Benefits:

- Helps communities expedite funding decisions
- Allows communities to bypass traditional application processes and make targeted funding decisions based on need
- Streamlines process and review time to get contracts out the door

Disaster Policy Sample Language

Louisiana

The LHC seeks to be a strong partner to local geographies affected by natural disasters. In these situations, the LHC will try to leverage all resources under its purview to provide support to vulnerable homeless clients. The ESG funding awarded to the State is one of the resources that the LHC may use to support homeless people affected by natural disasters.

In order to provide flexible and meaningful support, the LHC reserves the right to focus grant funding (both old money and new money) and corresponding eligible component types to the affected areas. In these situations, the LHC may make targeted grant awards to governments and/or nonprofits to address direct deficits to existing programs, provide temporary support to expand program occupancy or fund a new activity such as street outreach or case management that can be utilized on the street or in temporary shelters to move new and existing clients into permanent housing. All activity that may be funded to support natural disasters would still need to align with regulations that govern the Emergency Solutions Grant and with the procedures outlined in this document.

Disaster Policy Sample Language

Puerto Rico

FAMILIA seeks to be a strong partner to local geographies affected by natural disasters. In these situations, FAMILIA will leverage all resources under its purview to provide support to vulnerable homeless clients. The ESG funding awarded to Puerto Rico is one of the resources that Familia may use to support homeless people impacted by natural disasters.

In order to provide flexible and meaningful support, FAMILIA reserves the right to focus grant funding awarded under 2012-2017 funding and corresponding eligible component types to the most impacted areas. **In these situations, FAMILIA may make targeted grant awards to subrecipients that are governments and/or nonprofits to address direct deficits to existing programs, to fund local preparedness needs and requirements such as generators and water cisterns to comply with local law no. 88 (Law for the Guarantee of Provision of Services). Familia may also make strategic awards to expand shelter beds or renovate shelters damaged by the disaster.** All activity that may be funded must still align with regulations that govern the Emergency Solutions Grant and with the local policies and procedures.

FAMILIA will temporarily modify its traditional rating and ranking process to award funding to areas of the Commonwealth experiencing disasters. The modification of the traditional rating and ranking process serves two purposes. **First, it acknowledges that areas affected by disasters may not have the bandwidth to put forward applications. Second, it allows funding to be focused on the areas where it is most needed and will have the greatest impact.**



Strategies to Maximize your RUSH Award

- Flexibility in residential placement-don't make grant awards that specify geography where program participants must reside
- The [ESG Program Interim Rule](#) does not require applicants to verify an individual's or family's residency in the jurisdiction (such as last known address) in order to be determined eligible for or receive ESG assistance from an organization located within the recipient's jurisdiction.

Funding Distribution Sample Budget Based on Past Disasters

- 62.5% Rapid Re-housing
- 30% Congregate Shelter, Non-congregate Shelter or Outreach
- 7.5% Administration

**Acquisition & Rehab needs should be saved for CDBG-DR allocations if possible (acquisition is not an eligible ESG activity)*

Coordinated Entry & ESG Written Standards

Modifications can be made to Coordinated Entry and ESG Written Standards to account for disaster situations:

- Modifications can be made to Coordinated Entry and ESG Written Standards to account for disaster situations to accommodate eligible households wishing to move outside of their existing geography
- Communities are always encouraged to adjust their prioritization policies based on evolving information and circumstances, including new or improved data, changing needs and priorities, and available resources
- Collaboration across coordinated entry (CE) systems by RUSH recipients is necessary to best assist households that have been displaced from their community of origin.

Sample RUSH CES Prioritization

A) Location	B) Circumstance	C) Housing Status	D) Subpopulation Considerations
A) Disaster Impacted County	1a) People who were literally homeless prior to the disaster 1b) People who have become literally homeless as a result of the disaster AND 2) Were forced to leave the place they were staying because of the Hurricane. 3) Not TSA eligible.	UNSHELTERED	-Unaccompanied Youth -Family with Minor Children -Adult
		SHELTERED	-Unaccompanied Youth -Family with Minor Children -Adult
B) Disaster Impacted County	1) People who have utilized TSA and those services have ended 2) At risk of homelessness or literally homeless as a result of the disaster 3) Were forced to leave the place they were staying because of the Hurricane	SHELTERED	-Unaccompanied Youth -Family with Minor Children -Adult

RFA Process, Awarding, Contracting

1. RFA to be published 5/2
2. Application Submission due by 6/3
3. Award letters sent out by 6/18
4. Response to award letter by 6/25
5. Contracting process will begin

CoC Requirements

- Applicants must notify your CoC that you plan to apply
- Request letter of support from your CoC to be submitted directly to ESG Office
- Letter of support should include recommendations on funding amount, capacity, coordination, concerns, and any general information that you feel it would be helpful for the ESG Office to know if reviewing the application.

RFA Documents



Questions?

