

CARES ACT EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT – ESG-CV2

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-136) provided entitlement communities with supplemental Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). This funding is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). HUD has notified the City of Buffalo that it will receive a supplemental allocation totaling \$2,942,601 in ESG-CV round 2 (ESG-CV2) funds.

In order to access these supplemental funds, the CARES Act requires that entitlement communities submit a Substantial Amendment to HUD through HUD's Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). Additionally, HUD has asked that entitlement communities amend their latest approved Annual Action Plan.

HUD has identified the urgent need to prevent, prepare for and respond to the spread of COVID-19 and assist eligible individuals and families who are economically impacted at this time, and has thereby allowed a change to public participation; ESG-CV recipients have been given the flexibility to publish how the grantee has and will use its allocation online. The City of Buffalo will hold a virtual public hearing on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 6:00pm to provide information on this amendment. To join the meeting by video go to <http://www.webex.com> and click Join, or to join by audio call 1-415-655-0001; enter Meeting ID 126 354 4360, password (for video only) is: publiccomment (78254226 from phones and video systems) The City of Buffalo will place documents detailing how it has and will use its allocation online on a public website fulfilling the online published notice requirement, on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at: <https://www.buffalony.gov/324/Consolidated-Plan-Documents>

ESG-CV2 PY 2019 Buffalo CARES Act Amendment

Funded Amount \$2,942,601

The City of Buffalo has received an award notice for \$2,942,601 in Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act round 2 funding (ESG-CV2) according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) 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 of COVID-19. These round 2 funds are in addition to ESG-CV round 1 funds in the amount of \$4,152,910 acted upon by your Honorable Body on May 26, 2020.

These ESG-CV2 funds build upon the efforts already begun in ESG-CV, in terms of responding to the needs of the homeless and those most at risk of homelessness to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. The pandemic and subsequent shut down of the economy have created the need for significant intervention to get and keep low income homeless individuals sheltered and stably housed in the recovery phase of the pandemic.

Buffalo's low income renters are significantly rent burdened, with many families living on the edge of homelessness. Job loss, COVID-19 infections and quarantine, reduced hours and the inability to work due to schools being closed has moved those already on the edge closer to falling off. The loss of jobs and income has led many people to forgo rent payments, which will become a significant challenge once the Eviction Moratorium is lifted and courts re-open to hear their cases. Getting and keeping low income individuals in safe housing will be a primary focus of this ESG-CV2 intervention, providing rental assistance and legal services to Buffalo's neediest households.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, over 100 people have attended and received services from the emergency twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week shelters (24/7) at the Flickinger Center, Holy Cross, and Lincoln Center. ESG-CV2 funding is provided to keep the 24/7 shelters open through the end of summer, as we work to get individuals housed with allocated re-housing funds. Re-housing efforts will focus on providing case management, housing search, and rental assistance to those currently living on the streets or in shelter, based on Coordinated Entry System requirements. Funds have also been allocated for increased shelter expenses should a second wave of COVID-19 occur in the fall or winter.

The following summarizes the interventions recommended by City of Buffalo programs and the local Continuum of Care/Emergency Solutions Grant partners to respond to the financial impact of COVID-19 on our community. This round of funding equaling \$2,942,601 has been allocated as a direct result of agencies responding to the ESG-Request for Qualifications. Funding is allocated to the following general categories of program:

Rapid Rehousing:

"Soft Touch" Rapid Rehousing for literally homeless families and individuals. The focus of "soft touch" will be those individuals who have lingered in homelessness on the Rapid Rehousing list, or are newly homeless but have a job and income. The touch will be in providing first month rent and security deposit, along with housing stability case management to those may need a small amount of assistance to secure housing.

Traditional Rapid Rehousing will continue, using the Coordinated Entry by-name list, to focus on meeting the housing needs of the most vulnerable, including youth.

Eviction Prevention:

Providing short-term financial assistance for rent and utilities, and legal services support to stabilize families and individuals is more cost effective and less expensive financially and emotionally than allowing households to become homeless. Clients with income up to 30% of area median income, who lost their income as a result of COVID-19, will be assisted based on targeting and vulnerability.

Emergency Shelter:

1. Continue to provide 24 hour/7 day per week shelter for homeless individuals at the Flickinger Center and Lincoln Center, through August 30, 2020.

2. Continue to provide overnight overflow shelter at Holy Cross, through August 30, 2020.

3. Provide funding to expand the shelter supply by funding a Shelter Director and security guards at the Little Portion Friary homeless shelter. This funding will allow the shelter, run primarily by volunteers, to maintain shelter operations during the current and any future pandemics. The opening of Little Portion Friary will increase shelter beds by 16 beds upon approval, with an additional 13 beds available when shelter distancing is lifted.

4. Reserve funds to provide enhanced emergency shelter for a 2nd COVID-19 wave. If this wave does not materialize, we will amend the Annual Action Plan to move these funds to support prevention and/or Rapid Rehousing.

The focus all shelter efforts will be on stabilizing health and moving individuals to permanent stable housing.

ESG-CV2 PY 2019 Buffalo
CARES Act Amendment

	Households To Be Served	ESG-CV2 PY 2019 Buffalo CARES Act Allocation
Project Components:		
All Rapid Rehousing	200	\$ 1,014,018
Prevention	150	\$ 396,224
Shelter	300	\$ 1,238,159
City of Buffalo Administration	650	\$ 294,200
Total		\$ 2,942,601