

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Explained

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)

The Basics

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) are authorized by Title IV of the *Mckinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*.¹ **The program is designed to provide assistance to people who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness in order to regain stable housing by providing grants to states, metropolitan cities, urban counties, and U.S. territories.** Local governments may distribute all or part of ESG assistance to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), local redevelopment authorities, or private nonprofit organizations assisting people experiencing homelessness.

ESGs are overseen by HUD's Community Development and Planning department. HUD, authorized by Congress through the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, administers these and most of the major publicly supported housing programs in the United States.

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities for ESG include rental assistance and housing relocation or stabilization.

Rental Assistance

Rental assistance through the ESG program funds recipient agencies to provide short or medium-term housing to individuals or families either at risk of homelessness or currently experiencing homelessness. This assistance may include tenant-based or project-based rental assistance.

Generally, a recipient organization may provide up to 24 months of rental assistance during any 3-year period. This rental assistance generally cannot be used with other subsidies² and cannot be provided unless rent is at or below HUD's Fair Market Rent and meets HUD's standard of rent "reasonableness".

Housing relocation or stabilization

Other eligible activities include housing relocation or stabilization services for individuals or families either at risk of homelessness or currently experiencing homelessness.

These services include activities that are effective at **(a)** stabilizing individuals and families in their current housing; or **(b)** quickly moving such individuals and families to other permanent housing, such as: housing search assistance, mediation or outreach to landlords, legal services, credit repair, providing security or utility deposits, utility payments, rental assistance for a final month at a location or assistance with moving costs.

¹ (42 U.S.C. 11371-11378.) Regulations for the ESG program are at 24 CFR 576

² 24 CFR 576.106(C)

Tenants Rights

Termination of ESG-funded services requires a formal process³ at minimum consisting of:

- Written notice to the program participant containing a clear statement of the reasons for termination;
- A review of the decision, in which the program participant is given the opportunity to present written or oral objections before someone other than the person (or a subordinate of that person) who made or approved the termination decision;
- Prompt written notice of the final decision to the program participant.

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³ 24 CFR 576.402