

Section Four: ESG Narratives

**New ESG Funds for the 2003-2004 Program Year
Use of ESG Funds and Project Selection**

Introduction

On December 17, 1993, the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles entered a joint exercise of powers agreement to create the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to provide coordinated homeless services. The County and City have designated LAHSA to administer the Homeless Initiative, which includes Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds. The funds will be apportioned in the County and City according to need described in Section Five of the 2003-2008 Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan for the Los Angeles Urban County.

New ESG Funds for the 2003–2004 Program Year

The new Program Year (2003–2004) will begin on July 1, 2003. Total ESG funds available in 2003–2004 are \$1,298,000.

FEDERAL INVESTMENT CRITERIA

Table 4–1 estimates the amounts and percentages of ESG funds proposed to be allocated to activities.

**Table 4–1
Proposed Use of ESG Funds by Eligible Activity**

Eligible Activity	Amount	Percent
Operating Costs ¹	\$843,700	65%
Essential Services ²	\$389,400	30%
Administration	\$64,900	5%
Total	\$1,298,000	100%

¹ Operations costs are those costs associated with emergency and transitional shelters such as rent, utilities, security, food, etc. which are necessary to provide shelter services.

² Essential Services is a cost category for personnel providing such supportive services as case management, job training and employment counseling, intervention services for substance abuse, and education.

HUD requires that the grantee provide a 100 percent match for ESG funding. Supportive Housing Program funds provided to LAHSA through the HUD SuperNOFA will provide 100 percent of the match requirement for the ESG funds.

Use of ESG Funds and Project Selection

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) proposes to use the 2003–2004 ESG allocation to meet the objectives of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and to meet homeless needs, goals, and objectives identified in the Consolidated Plan.

PROPOSED USE OF ESG FUNDS

Given the shortage of funds for emergency shelter and services—and in response to extensive Countywide public participation in planning—the highest priority for the use of ESG is to strengthen and enlarge the network of emergency beds and services and to strengthen the referral system to these facilities in order to address the needs of chronically homeless individuals and families.

Five Programs are proposed to be funded with ESG funds to meet this priority:

- Emergency Shelter and Services Program
- Winter Shelter Program
- Westside Residence Hall
- Ocean Park Community Center Access Center
- Emergency Response Team

Emergency Shelter and Services Program

Agencies that receive funds for providing year-round shelter beds in the Emergency Shelter and Services Program were selected through a competitive RFP process that was conducted in 2002. These agencies will continue to receive funds for a 2-year period and may be reviewed for a third year if funds are available and the program is reaching its performance goals. Clients enrolling in the program are provided with shelter, food, transportation, case management and appropriate social services.

Winter Shelter Program

Nonprofit providers will be selected through an RFP process that will be conducted in July 2003. The Winter Shelter Program is designed to provide homeless persons with a comfortable shelter environment, two meals, transportation to the shelter, and referrals to social services during the coldest and wettest months of the year. The program is planned to operate from 12/01/03 through 3/15/04. Approximately 170,000 shelter nights will be provided during the 2003-2004 Winter Shelter Program.

The Westside Residence Hall

This countywide program, operated by LA Veterans Initiative, Inc. will use ESG funds to provide transitional housing with extensive support services to veterans.

Ocean Park Community Center Access Center

Access centers are the entry points for many homeless people into the LAHSA funded system of services and housing. ESG funds will be used for operations and essential services for this access center, which serves a large area on the Westside, which is heavily impacted by homeless people.

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

The LAHSA ERT is funded equally by the County and the City of Los Angeles with ESG monies. This six-member team works with government officials, community members, and service providers to address the issues of homeless people in small and large-scale encampments. ERT members engage homeless people making on-scene assessments and referrals to appropriate services within the Continuum of Care.

PROJECT SELECTION

LAHSA, in compliance with ESG application requirements under 24 CFR 576.51 awards ESG funding to nonprofit agencies providing beds through competitive processes. Two programs require agencies to be selected through an RFP process: the Emergency Shelter and Services Program and the Winter Shelter Program.

LAHSA funds other programs non-competitively that are deemed by the LAHSA Commission to be essential to the functioning of the Continuum of Care: the Westside Residence Hall, the Ocean Park Community Center Access Center, and the Emergency Response Team.

Review Criteria

All projects, whether receiving funding through a competitive or non-competitive process, are reviewed for the following:

- Capacity of the service provider to adhere to the ESG regulations and provide the intended program within ESG guidelines to the eligible population.
- Eligibility within 24 CFR 576.21.
- Consistency of the proposed project with the Consolidated Plan, the Continuum of Care, and the LAHSA program under which the proposer is applying.
- Ability of the agency to expend funds within the timeframe required by HUD, the CDC and the LAHSA contract.