

St. Louis County Emergency Solutions Grant Application and Award Process

St. Louis County receives HUD entitlement funding for three programs: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME). The Planning and Community Development Department administrates these entitlement programs for St. Louis County and facilitates public processes for each source of funding using advisory committees. The advisory committees review applicant requests and make recommendations to the St. Louis County Board for contract awards.

The public process for all three sources includes the annual HUD Action Plan (AP). The AP is made available for public comment over 30 days during February and March and includes an estimate of ESG funding for the current program year. ESG funding by eligible activity category (shelter, street outreach, prevention/rapid re-housing) is proposed without specific agency funding recommendations. Additional ESG funding received with transition from the Emergency Shelter Grant to the Emergency Solutions Grant (HEARTH Act) has been committed to rapid re-housing and prevention assistance.

When HUD releases the actual entitlement amount, applications for ESG funding are requested through announcement to the Rural Housing Coalition (RHC) email group. Caveat is provided in the application solicitation to acknowledge that funding for new programs and additional agencies is limited. New applicants are encouraged to contact County staff persons to discuss funding availability and proposed project eligibility. Unless an existing agency will be replaced by withdrawing from the process or for reasons of performance, the County does not fund duplication of services.

Planning and Community Development requests permission to present ESG information at the next scheduled RHC meeting. The presentation includes distribution of the proposed budget, copies of the applications received, and discussion of historic funding for ESG activities. Application review and comment is accepted until the following month's RHC meeting.

At the next monthly RHC meeting, Planning and Community Development provides a similar presentation and requests action to recommend a budget that includes agency awards for activities. The original proposed budget may be revised as long as it does not violate ESG regulatory funding limitations.

During 2015, attendance at a case manager's retreat was possible. The retreat included case managers and supervisory staff persons from the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Range Transitional Housing, Legal Aid, and Range Mental Health Center. The forum provided insight to improved use of prevention/rapid re-housing funding and resulted in changes to allowed funding use. Future attendance at the retreat will be attempted as part of the annual process.

The RHC recommendation is brought to the Heading Home Governance Board at its next scheduled meeting. Planning and Community Development presents the applications, RHC recommended budget and awards, and answers questions. Governance Board endorsement of the RHC recommendation is sought.

Planning and Community Development carries the RHC recommendation and Governance Board endorsement to the St. Louis County Board and requests authority to contract with ESG funded agencies.

Annual ESG Process

Date	Action
February – March	HUD Action Plan Public Comment Period
April	Attend RHC meeting & announce application process
May	RHC meeting – provide & discuss applications received
June	Case Manager Retreat
June	RHC meeting – review & recommend applications
June	Heading Home Governance Board – discuss RHC recommendation & recommend to SLC County Board
July	St. Louis County Board – Committee of the Whole Agenda
July	St. Louis County Board – Regular Board Agenda
July – August	Provide contracts to agencies