

B. Emergency Shelter Grant

1. Distribution of Funds

The allocation of HUD McKinney Emergency Shelter Grant funds to the state is anticipated to be \$494,696 for 2011. Of this amount, \$394,696 will be matched with funds or in-kind services provided by the nonprofit sub-recipients.

Eligible applicants include units of local government and nonprofit organizations including community and faith-based organizations. Federal regulations require each state to make Emergency Shelter Grant funds available to recipient organizations within 65 days of the date of the grant award. Since the state contracting process can take longer than 65 days, the RFP process has typically begun months ahead of the receipt of the grant award. Because the homeless service provider network doesn't change much from year to year, BHHS has adopted a policy of soliciting applications biannually (every other year). The RFP for SFY 2010 and 2011 was released on October 21, 2008. Beginning October 18, 2008, the availability of funding was advertised for three days in four newspapers (Manchester Union Leader, Concord Monitor, Laconia Citizen, and Foster's Daily Democrat) that covered statewide distribution. In addition, the RFP was posted on the NH Department of Health and Human Services website. E-mail notification was provided to all known homeless service providers, Continuum of Care members, and other interested parties throughout the state.

An application for HUD McKinney ESG funds is considered to be a request for Emergency Shelter State Grant-In-Aid funds, and this state program, designed to compliment the McKinney ESG, is funded at a level of approximately \$3.3 million for SFY 2010. A separate proposal must be submitted when applying for both shelter operations and prevention/intervention services. Completed applications are received at the Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services.

Immediately following receipt of all applications, staff and expert external reviewers will commence with a review of the applications. All responsible and responsive proposals received by the submittal deadline will be evaluated on the basis of evaluation factors set forth below:

- 1) Program design and need for project (20 points)
- 2) Use of outcome/performance measures and outcomes achieved (15 points)
- 3) Cost effectiveness and leveraging of resources (15 points)
- 4) Local Service Delivery Area coordination/collaboration (15 points)
- 5) Soundness of (program) approach (10 points)
- 6) Accurate and timely utilization of HMIS (10 points)
- 7) Compliance with rules, statutes, and life safety codes (5 points)
- 8) Staff experience and credentials (10 points)
- 9) Increase in bed capacity (5 Bonus Points)
- 10) Increase in prevention intervention or essential services (10 Bonus Points)

Increase in bed capacity, services and/or Reviewer ratings of applications will contribute to establishing funding recommendations for both McKinney ESG and Emergency Shelter State Grant-In-Aid allocations. Historically, HUD McKinney ESG regulations include the limitations that no more than 30% each of the total award to go toward Essential Services and Preventions

Activities, thus regulatory restrictions have had some impact on distribution of the federal funds. These recommendations are presented to the State of New Hampshire Emergency Shelter and Homeless Coordination Commission, a body appointed by the Governor and Executive Council, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the NH Senate, and the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Commission meets to review staff recommendations and advise the Commissioner on a distribution plan. From there, state contracts are drawn up and submitted to the Governor and Executive Council for approval. The McKinney ESG funds are awarded pending the approval, by HUD, of this Action Plan. The Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services is changing the distribution process of Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds, in anticipation of the changes that will need to be implemented relative to the HEARTH Act. Historically NH has awarded these funds through a formula allocation with 30% for Prevention, 30% for Essential Services and 40% for Operations. NH's anticipated 2011 ESG formula allocation awarded by HUD will be utilized instead to fund emergency shelter operations **only**. Prevention and Essential Services Programs will not lose funding, these services will continue to be funded through State-Grant-In-Aid.

Any new monies received from HUD for the new Emergency Solutions Grant program (formerly the Emergency Shelter Grant program) will be used for new activities as determined by HUD when the HEARTH policy is issued. The current total funding for 2011 will be identified as a "hold harmless amount" to be utilized for emergency shelter operations only, from this point forward.

Emergency Shelter Grant funds will be used to support initiatives in the following areas:

- c. Operations of any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific population of the homeless, including:
 - Payment for shelter maintenance, operation, rent, repairs, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, food, and furnishings.
- d. Renovation, major rehabilitation, or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelters for the homeless;

Funds awarded with state funding under State Grant-In-Aid will be used to support the initiatives in the following areas:

- a. prevention/intervention of homelessness
- b. operation of emergency and transitional shelter programs
- c. essential services
- d. other programs identified as service gaps in a continuum of care

Applications must include a summary of the activities proposed including the dollar amount requested for each, whether the initiative is new or a continuation, the projected number of persons served and the types of populations served for a two-year period.

It shall also include more narrative describing the activities and use of funds, identification of the continuum existing in the community and the relationship of proposed activities to the continuum and a budget describing ESG funds, State Grant In-Aid, full operating budget and matching resources.

Applications will be accepted for a two-year period coinciding with the application process for State Grant In-Aid funding and grants will be awarded within 65 days from the date of formal notification of the grant approval by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Any ESG budget increases realized by BHHS in the second year will be awarded to proposals that applied for but did not receive additional funding in order of ranking at the time the original application was evaluated.

In addition to activities funded through ESG, the state will continue to develop its continuum of care system, which includes undertaking the following actions:

- a. Identify and assess capacity development needs of non-state funded homeless service providers.
- b. Implement the Homeless Management Information System's reporting system for shelter providers.
- c. Increase services provided to the chronically homeless.
- d. Refine identification of gaps in the service delivery system.
- e. Improve the collection of service data by the homeless provider groups.

2. Assistance Goals

- a. Stabilize or reduce the number of persons sheltered from the 2009 level of approximately 6,000.
- b. Stabilize or increase the number served with prevention services from 2009 levels.
- c. Stabilize or reduce the average length of stay at shelters from 2009 levels.
- d. Reduce the number of chronically homeless individuals by 10% a year.

3. Action Steps to End Chronic Homelessness

The following excerpts from the New Hampshire Balance of State 2008 Continuum of Care application reflect current action steps in progress: