



EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM

Mississippi Home Corporation (MHC) is releasing a draft of the ESG Program 2020 Application Scoring Criteria. The purpose of issuing this draft is to bring awareness of the application criteria to potential applicants prior to opening of the 2020 Application Cycle. In addition, MHC is soliciting public comments to allow the public to provide comments and input of the proposed scoring criteria. Comments will be accepted beginning February 13, 2020 through February 24, 2020, 5:00 p.m. All comments will be reviewed and issued a response.

Program Overview

The purpose of the **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program** is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. The ESG program provides funding to: (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street; (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents, (5) rapidly rehouse homeless individuals and families, and (6) prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless.

The application cycle for the ESG Program is a competitive process and held on an annual basis. An application must meet threshold & scoring requirements in order to be eligible for an ESG award. Applications must score a minimum of 75 on a 100-point scale to be considered for funding. By adhering to the scoring criteria, applications can receive up to 100 points based on the final rating criteria.

The Program Review Committee will evaluate complete applications according to the following criteria.

Rating Factor 1: Capacity & Experience (30 pts)

CONSIDERING FACTORS

- Does the non-profit have an experienced staff?
- Does the non-profit have local, state, or federal licenses/certificates?
- Does the proposed program seem to complement the non-profit's Mission Statement?
- Does the non-profit demonstrate that they have the staff experience and proper level of staffing to carry out the project?

Evaluate how well the non-profit demonstrates the ability to successfully implement and manage grant funded (federal, state, and local) projects in a timely manner, consistent with funding requirements AND the non-profit's experience working with similar programs (housing programs, emergency shelters, outreach, etc.) or programs with similar activities (case management, assessments, etc.).

Rating Factor 2: Need/Extent of the Problem (27 pts)

CONSIDERING FACTORS

- Does the non-profit address root causes versus a band-aid approach?
- How do the services help meet client and community needs?
- Are current local statistics, non-profit statistics or other evidence provided to document and support the need?
- Is the target population and their unique service needs clearly identified?

Evaluate the identified community need in the context of the priorities for the proposed services. How comprehensive is the description of the related need for the services proposed? Evaluate how well services are located as compared to need in community. Is the target population and their unique service needs clearly identified?

Rating Factor 3: Collaboration (8 pts)

CONSIDERING FACTORS

- Does the non-profit actively refer clients to other needed services?
- Does the proposed program include coordination efforts between multiple partners including: Education, Faith-Based, Arts, Media, Government, Non-Profits, Business, Entertainment, Sports and Neighborhoods?
- Does the non-profit collaborate with other agencies to provide comprehensive services?
- Does the non-profit have an effective client outreach strategy?
- Do these services help meet needs and promote increased self-sufficiency?
- Are there details of any formal agreements and history of partnerships in the community?
- Is the non-profit demonstrating that they are not working in a silo and have established true partnerships throughout the county?

Evaluate the outreach activities and how effective the project will be in reaching the target population. How are any barriers described, and how will they be addressed? Evaluate the degree of non-profit participation within the local community, including its collaborative efforts with other agencies and committees. Does the non-profit participate in the Continuum of Care (CoC) and CoC related activities? ESG grant recipients are required to participate in the CoC.

Rating Factor 4: Program Evaluation, Performance & Monitoring (25 pts)

CONSIDERING FACTORS

- How did the non-profit perform in terms of numbers served in the previous grant cycle?
- Has the non-profit had any issues with expending all their past or current funding?
- Are there any serious performance issues in past grants awarded to the non-profit?
- Are the non-profits proposing activities that will help clients move towards self-sufficiency after they receive the service?
- Can they clearly define how clients will be better off and reach self-sufficiency after receiving proposed services?
- Do the non-profit track accomplishments over time and have verifiable accomplishments?
- Is there a strong link between the project goals, the services provided and the outcomes?
- Are there significant discrepancies between the agency's answers & the performance reports from the HUD CAPER report?

Evaluate the effectiveness of how proposed program outcomes and performance will be measured. Are the methods and tools to be used to evaluate progress clearly described?

Rating Factor 5: Financial (30 pts)

CONSIDERING FACTORS

- Does the non-profit identify source of operating funds that will fund services before they are reimbursed by ESG?
- Does the proposed program have significant amounts of other funding?
- If the requested ESG funding is not awarded can the non-profit still implement the program?
- Does the budget reflect awarded funding or pending funding from other sources?
- Is there a guaranteed commitment of funding to cover the costs of the proposed program?
- In the past was the project funded with other funding, if so why did it stop?

Evaluate whether the project budget estimates and costs are reasonable and well supported or justified relative to the number of persons to be served, the services to be provided, and the target population. Does the project leverage other federal, state, local or private resources? Does the non-profit provide evidence of sustainable funding? Evaluate project sources and costs to determine if they are reasonable and well supported. Is the project budget relative to the proposed numbers of individuals and/or households to be assisted? Does the applicant have 25% liquid assets and/or committed net positive cash flow? If ESG isn't awarded, can the applicant still implement the program? Did applicant submit their most recent audit as evidence to support cash