

80ARD OF SUPERVICES

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Planning and Development – 9AD 600 Harrison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94107-1387 www.hud.gov espanol.hud.gov

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Mr. Thomas W. Mayfield Chairperson, Board of Supervisors County of Stanislaus 1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6500 Modesto, CA 95354

AUG - 2 2012

Dear Mr. Mayfield:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2011 Emergency Solutions Grant Substantial Amendment County of Stanislaus, California

We are pleased to approve your substantial amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Annual Action Plan. Enclosed is a grant agreement amendment for your second allocation of FY2011 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds in the amount of **\$61,338**. These funds are subject to the requirements in 24 CFR part 576, as revised by the Emergency Solutions Grants and Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments Interim Rule, which was published in the Federal Register on December 5, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 75954).

We are sure you appreciate the need for prompt action in using these funds to both prevent homelessness and help persons experiencing homelessness. Within 180 days after the date that HUD signs the grant agreement amendment, you must obligate the entire grant amount, except the amount allowed for administrative costs. This requirement will be met by an agreement with, or a letter of award requiring payment to, a subrecipient; a procurement contract; or a written designation of a department within your government to directly carry out an eligible activity. If you represent an urban county, this requirement may also be met with an agreement with, or letter of award requiring payment to, a member government that has designated a department to directly carry out an eligible activity.

All ESG grant funds must be expended within 24 months after the date HUD signs the grant agreement amendment. Please make every effort to expend all ESG funds by this deadline. HUD may recover any grant amounts that are not expended by this date and reallocate the funds in accordance with 24 CFR part 576, subpart D.

## **Change in Environmental Review Responsibilities for ESG**

On Friday, July 6, 2012, President Obama signed the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21) (Public Law 112-141) into law. The law includes several changes to the homeless assistance programs under title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 11360 et seq.). Among these changes, MAP-21 restores authorization for states and units of general local government to assume HUD's responsibilities for environmental review under 24 CFR Part 58 (environmental reviews performed by states and units of general local government) for the Emergency Solutions Grants program (ESG).

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Based on this change, HUD revised the ESG grant agreement to incorporate the relevant provision of MAP-21 and provide that the grantee agrees to assume all of the responsibilities with respect to environmental review, decision making, and action required under HUD's regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. This agreement will enable you to use the same environmental review procedures that have been required for all Emergency Shelter Grants program grants. HUD will also incorporate these procedures into the upcoming final rule for the Emergency Solutions Grants program.

Under these procedures, each unit of general local government that receives ESG funds from HUD or a State, and each State that provides ESG funds to private nonprofit organizations, will carry out the environmental review responsibilities under Part 58. Also, each State that provides ESG funds to a unit of general local government will provide for the assumption of environmental review responsibilities by the units of general local government and act on their requests for release of funds.

We are forwarding three signed copies of the Grant Agreement to Nancy Brown, Deputy Director, Planning and Community Development, for execution as your designee. Ms. Brown should sign each of these forms, retain one copy for the County's records, and return the remaining two copies to the HUD San Francisco Office.

If you have any questions or need assistance to expend these funds expeditiously to assist homeless persons, please contact Curt Klaus, Community Planning and Development Representative of this office at (415) 489-6599 or email at Curt.Klaus@hud.gov.

Sincerely,

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Maria F. Cremer Director Office of Community Planning and Development

cc:

Nancy Brown, Deputy Director (w/ enclosures) Richard W. Robinson, Chief Executive Officer