



## Stanislaus County Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program

### Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Grant Application Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025)

**Please review the Grant Application Guidelines prior to starting the application process.**

Stanislaus County is pleased to present the guidelines for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) grant application to interested parties. These guidelines are intended to explain the federal and local goals of the grant programs and to assist an applicant in applying for ESG funds.

In administering this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), if there is a conflict between the federal statutes and regulations or grant application guidelines, the federal statutes and regulations shall prevail. All activities in this NOFA are subject to the availability of funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The County reserves the right, at its sole discretion and at any time, to rescind, suspend, or amend this NOFA and any or all of its provisions. The County will notify interested parties through listserv emails and by posting a notification on the County website if the County rescinds, suspends, or amends this NOFA. This NOFA is not a commitment of funds to any activity or applicant.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*:

ESG Grant Technical Assistance Online Workshop (REQUIRED) ..... June 24, 2025, 3:00 p.m.  
Session 1 – Questions and Answers Online Meeting (OPTIONAL) ..... June 30, 2025, 11:00 a.m.  
Session 2 – Questions and Answers Online Meeting (OPTIONAL) ..... July 2, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

**Grant Applications Due ..... July 8, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.**  
Grant Review Panel Presentations.....July 17, 2025  
(Scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.)  
Notification of Application Scoring Ranking .....July 2025  
Proposed Funding Recommendations Presented to BOS .....August 2025  
Final Funding Recommendations Approved by BOS .....August 2025  
Grantee Award Training .....August 2025  
Agreements Released .....August 2025

***\*All dates on the timeline are subject to change.***

#### GRANT REVIEW PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Presentations to the Grant Review Panel will be held via Zoom on July 17, 2025. The purpose of these presentations is to allow applicants to give a 15-minute presentation about their proposal(s) to the Grant Review Panel. After the presentation, the panel will conduct a brief question-and-answer session with the applicant. Applicants will be registered for a presentation appointment at the time of the application submission. Time slots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are **REQUIRED** to attend their scheduled online presentation to the Grant Review Panel.

#### EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funds on an annual basis to entitlement jurisdictions. HUD's ESG program is intended to supplement state, local, and private efforts to improve the quality and number of emergency shelters, as well as to provide case

management and financial assistance to prevent homelessness and to permanently re-house homeless persons. 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 re-house homeless individuals and families; and (6) prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless.

HUD issued an interim rule for the ESG program on January 4, 2012. This rule amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act in accordance with the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), enacted into law on May 20, 2009. The interim rule established a list of eligible activities and allows the local grantees to select activities in accordance with its own community development objectives. An updated version of the ESG Program Interim Rule was published in the Federal Register on April 1, 2017. The updated version of the ESG Program Interim Rule incorporated the addition of Section 576.409 regarding protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, which was established in response to the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA). HUD's VAWA requirements and information are available online: [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#).

The ESG program is governed by 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 91 and 576. HUD's ESG program information is available online: [HUD Exchange](#).

## FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Stanislaus County is seeking grant applications for the awarding of ESG funds that can be expended between July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027. The number of ESG applications to be awarded is dependent on the actual amount of ESG funding provided by HUD to the Stanislaus Urban County.

### ESTIMATED FY 2025 ESG PROGRAM FUNDS AVAILABLE:

**\$200,000\***

*\*Please see the "Program Requirements" section for Estimated Allocation amounts per Eligible Activity. Stanislaus County award recommendations, including caps and eligible activities, may be adjusted based on the actual amount awarded by HUD.*

Designed as the first step in a Continuum of Care plan of assistance, the ESG program strives to address the immediate needs of individuals residing on the street and requiring emergency shelter and support in their path to independent living. While flexible in terms of serving all homeless subpopulations and preventing persons from becoming homeless, ESG program legislation and implementing regulations do limit the types of activities and amounts of funds that can be spent on different activities. The following categories of eligible activities and applicable limitations, including income eligibility limitations, are discussed in the "Program Requirements" section of these guidelines.

Stanislaus County, along with the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, and Waterford, form what is known as the Stanislaus Urban County, an entitlement jurisdiction. Stanislaus County serves as the "lead agency" for the Stanislaus Urban County.

As an entitlement jurisdiction, the Stanislaus Urban County is awarded ESG funds directly from HUD to facilitate programs meeting HUD's ESG program criteria.

Final award amounts will be verified via email after the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approves the final funding recommendations (estimated to occur in August 2025). Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis only, and reimbursements will not be allowed until the awarded agencies are in a fully executed agreement with the County, as outlined in an official award letter.

**Future HUD Funding:** Due to the uncertainty of HUD Funding and tight deadlines, the County may use the Ranking list that results from this NOFA, if authorized by HUD to award future ESG awards in upcoming fiscal years.

## CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

**Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 - 2029:** The Stanislaus Urban County annually receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) entitlement funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Consolidated Plan is a document that provides an analysis of the existing resources and greatest needs in the County and lays out a five-year plan for how Stanislaus Urban County's entitlement funds will be utilized to meet these needs. The Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 - 2029, which includes the Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2025- 2026, was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on May 13, 2025.

The Consolidated Plan was prepared in partnership with the City of Turlock under the title of "Stanislaus Urban County & Stanislaus HOME Consortium Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 - 2029" and is available online via the Stanislaus County Community Development Services [Plans and Reports](#) web page.

Information is also compiled from the County's Continuum of Care's annual Point in Time Homeless Count, Stanislaus Urban County members' Housing Elements, and California State Department of Finance demographics reports. Collectively, this information serves as a guide for the implementation of programs and for recommendations for competitive grant awards.

Eligible Stanislaus Urban County service areas include the incorporated areas of the Stanislaus Urban County cities and the unincorporated Stanislaus County area, which can be identified online via the [Stanislaus County GIS Data](#) web page.

Shelters that are not based in the Stanislaus Urban County service area may still apply for funding as long as they serve all homeless within the County that they have capacity to assist.

Grant applications received during this grant cycle are required to identify the problem(s) or need(s) in the community that the proposed program addresses. In addition to the identification of the needs and problems, statistical and/or demographic information is requested as part of the response in the grant application. By providing this information the grant applicant assists in helping to address the public service-related priorities found within the Consolidated Plan.

## APPLICANT AGENCY THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS

**All agencies applying for funding must meet the following threshold requirements:**

**Experience:** Agencies applying must be an established, and operating not for profit, for profit or governmental agency as evidenced through documentation required in the application. Exhibits that show tax exempt status are required.

**Faith-Based Agencies:** Faith-based agencies are eligible to apply. HUD issued a final rule amendment allowing faith-based agencies to compete for ESG funding on the same basis as other non-profits; however, ESG funds cannot be used to support worship or religious instruction. Religious activities must be offered separately from the ESG supported activity. Faith-based agencies may not use direct ESG funds to support inherently religious activities such as worship or religious instruction. Faith-based agencies participating in the ESG program shall not discriminate against program beneficiaries on the basis of religion or religious beliefs.

**Active Governing Body:** Governance of the agency should be vested in a responsible and active voluntary board, which meets at least quarterly. A copy of minutes authorizing agency staff to apply for ESG funds or grants in general must be provided.

**Personnel:** The agency must provide for adequate staffing for the administration and delivery of the services proposed. If the project is accepted for funding, the agency must provide a copy of its Personnel Policies, Drug-Free Workplace Policy, and any other personnel-related documents that the County and/or HUD may request.

**Non-Discrimination:** Each agency receiving funds from the County is required to assure that it will conduct its business in compliance with the non-discrimination requirements of the County, state and federal governments, as applicable. Equal Opportunity in Employment policies will be required.

**Accounting:** Agencies must comply with federal uniform administrative requirements regarding fiscal management including financial reporting, record keeping, accounting systems, payment procedures, procurement of goods and services, conflict of interest, and audit requirements. Non-profit agencies must administer programs in compliance with OMB Uniform Guidance set forth in 2 CFR Part 200. Federal guidelines and regulations are available online via the National Archives Code of Federal Regulations [Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200](#) web page.

Costs must be necessary and reasonable for the proper and efficient performance and administration of the grant. Costs must be adequately documented. Agencies may be required to submit information regarding their accounting systems to Stanislaus County's Department of Planning and Community Development for approval before any funds are disbursed.

**Audits and Financial Reports:** An agency must provide a copy of its most recent Independent Audit and Management Letter. Non-Federal entities that expend \$750,000 or more in a year in federal awards shall have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year. Non-Federal entities that expend less than \$750,000 a year in federal awards must submit a financial statement and other supporting documents to show how the ESG funds were utilized. Local governments and non-profit agencies are required to comply with 24 CFR 576-Applicability of Uniform Administrative Requirements and the requirements and standards of 2 CFR 200.420-200.475 (formerly OMB Circular A-133 "Audits of States, local governments, and non-profit agencies"), 24 CFR part 84 and 85, and the cost principles at 2 CFR part 225 (OMB Circular A-87) and 2 CFR part 230 (OMB Circular A-122), as in effect prior to December 26, 2014.

**Insurance:** An agency that is applying must provide evidence of insurance, including but not limited to, multi-peril property and liability, medical, workers' compensation, automobile liability, professional liability, and other coverage as deemed necessary by Stanislaus County and shall include indemnification and hold harmless language acceptable to Stanislaus County. All certificates and endorsements are to be received and approved by Stanislaus County before a program can be considered for final approval by the Board of Supervisors.

**Site Control:** Agency must provide proof of site control of location(s) they will be conducting their program.

**Program Guidelines:** Agency must have established program guidelines available for client review, including eligibility criteria, a termination of services policy, and program participation rules and regulations.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

ESG program regulations allow the use of funding for street outreach, emergency shelter, homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, and Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) activities identified below; however, the use of funding for certain activities may be disallowed by either HUD for any particular funding allocation. If HUD disallows the use of funding for an activity, the County will disqualify that grant application.

The awarded funding will be adjusted proportionally among the higher-ranking grant applicants. The following are ESG activities and estimated funding limits:

### Emergency Shelter Activities

Maximum award request capped at 60% of ESG allocation (estimated award available \$120,000).

- **Emergency Shelter:** Funds for facilities providing overnight shelter to homeless families and individuals including:
  - Shelter Operational Costs
  - Essential Services for Shelter Clients
    - Case Management
    - Child Care
    - Education Services
    - Employment Assistance and Job Skills Training
    - Outpatient Health Services
    - Legal Services
    - Life Skills Training

- Mental Health Services *(if otherwise unavailable to the client)*
- Substance Abuse Treatment Services *(if otherwise unavailable to the client)*
- Transportation *(for client to and from medical care, employment, childcare, or other eligible essential services, includes public transportation costs, or for staff for client home visits, for facility vehicle leasing costs when used specifically for transporting clients to and from medical care, employment, childcare, or other eligible essential services)*
- Services for Special Populations *(homeless youth, victim services, persons living with HIV/AIDS provided the services are one of those listed above)*

### **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Activities**

No cap on award request for ESG allocation (estimated minimum award available \$80,000).

- **Homeless Prevention:** Services that provide housing relocation and stabilization and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance necessary to prevent an individual or family who fits under the “at-risk of homelessness” definition from becoming homeless, including:

- Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services
  - Financial Assistance Costs *(includes rental application fees, security deposits, last month’s rent, utility deposits, utility payments, and moving costs)*
  - Services Cost
    - Housing Search and Placement *(staff time spent assisting clients in locating, obtaining and retaining housing)*
    - Housing Stability Case Management *(staff time spent assessing, arranging, coordinating, and monitoring the client’s progress towards achieving housing stability)*
    - Mediation *(between the client and landlord)*
    - Legal Services *(necessary to resolve a legal problem that prohibits the program participant from obtaining permanent housing or will likely result in the program participant losing the permanent housing in which the program participant currently resides)*
    - Credit Repair *(cannot be used to pay down client debt)*
- Rental Assistance
  - Short-term Rental Assistance *(up to three months)*
  - Medium-term Rental Assistance *(4 – 24 months)*
  - Payment of Rental Arrears *(one-time payment for up to six months of rental arrears, including any applicable late fees)*

- **Rapid Re-Housing:** Services that provide housing relocation, stabilization, and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance necessary to move an individual or family who fits under the “homeless” definition into permanent housing, including:

- Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services
  - Financial Assistance Costs *(includes rental application fees, security deposits, last month’s rent, utility deposits, utility payments, moving costs)*
  - Services Cost
    - Housing Search and Placement *(staff time spent assisting clients in locating, obtaining and retaining housing)*
    - Housing Stability Case Management *(staff time spent assessing, arranging, coordinating, and monitoring the client’s progress towards achieving housing stability)*
    - Mediation *(between the client and landlord)*
    - Legal Services *(necessary to resolve a legal problem that prohibits the program participant from obtaining permanent housing or will likely result in the program participant losing the permanent housing in which the program participant currently resides)*
    - Credit Repair *(cannot be used to pay down client debt)*

- Rental Assistance
  - Short-term Rental Assistance (*up to three months*)
  - Medium-term Rental Assistance (*4 – 24 months*)
  - Payment of Rental Arrears (*one-time payment for up to six months of rental arrears, including any applicable late fees*)

### **Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)**

Maximum award request capped at 7.5% of ESG allocation (estimated award available \$15,000).

Participation in HMIS is required for ESG programs. HMIS eligible expenses include:

- Data Entry
- Hardware and Software
- Reporting
- Technical Support
- Participation Fees/Software

**ESG applications are also required to meet the following program requirements:**

- **100% Matching Funding**
- **Site Control** – Agency must provide proof of site control of location(s) they will be conducting their program.
- **Termination Procedures**
- **Case Management**
- **Eligibility Re-Assessments** – Homeless Prevention every three months and Rapid Re-housing annually.
- **Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System** – Subrecipients are required to use a centralized or coordinated assessment system, as required by HUD, to assess the eligibility and needs of each individual or family who seeks homeless assistance or homelessness prevention assistance.
- **Habitability Standards** – Units receiving ESG rental assistance must pass a minimum threshold of habitability, including lead-based paint, to be verified by Stanislaus County.
- **Rental Agreement for Property Manager/Landlord**
- **Rental Agreement or Lease in Client's Name**
- **Landlord and or Property Owner Agreement with Agency**
- **Fair Market Rent (FMR) and Rent Reasonableness Calculations**

ESG programs must meet the following Income Eligibility Limits and Client Data requirements:

**Income Eligibility Limits:** ESG programs must serve **very low-income households** (at or below 30% of the area median income), **homeless persons, or those at-risk of homelessness.**

Income eligibility is determined by “**family size**”. HUD’s definition of *family* (24 CFR 5.403) includes but is not limited to: (1) A single person, who may be an elderly person, displaced person, disabled person, near-elderly person, or any other single person; or (2) A group of persons residing together, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. Very-low-income families are defined as those at or below 30% of the area median income.

Information on ESG program income limits is available on the HUD User [Income Limits](#) web page. Household income limits are updated annually by HUD.

**Income verification is required for Homeless Assistance at initial intake and at the annual reassessment, not upon program entry.** When an activity provides services specific to housing, then income eligibility is determined by **Household Size**, which includes every person residing within the home.

**Client Data:** The agency is required to obtain, update, and maintain individual client files documenting program eligibility and statistical data, including but not limited to income eligibility verification, U.S. Census Bureau Race and Ethnicity breakdowns, disability, female head of household, and clients 62 years of age and older.



## SCORING CRITERIA

HUD allows the Stanislaus Urban County to award grants in accordance with its own community development objectives. The Grant Review Panel will score grant applications based on the scoring criteria outlined below. The cumulative scores will be used to determine funding award recommendations. Final funding amounts also depend on eligible budget requests, eligible scopes of services in compliance with HUD program regulations, past program performance, service area and populations served, and funding availability.

Below is a summary of the scoring criteria to be used by the Grant Review Panel to evaluate each application (listed in no particular order):

- **Capacity and Experience** – Does the agency have experience and capacity to successfully implement the proposed program? Does the program have a sustainability plan?  
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Addressing the Need/Extent of the Problem** – Is the proposed program addressing a critical Stanislaus Urban County community need as described in the Consolidated Plan? Does the agency's program demonstrate accessible, equitable, inclusive, and culturally appropriate approach by creating opportunities for disadvantaged groups of people?  
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Collaboration** – What is the degree of agency participation within the local community, including its collaborative efforts with other agencies and committees? If the program serves homeless populations, does the agency participate in the local Continuum of Care (CoC) and CoC related activities?  
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Accomplishments and Program Evaluation** – Is there a solid methodology in place for determining client eligibility and for tracking numbers served? Are accomplishments measurable in terms of evaluating the impact they will have in the community, both long-term and short-term? An applicant should demonstrate commitment to address racial equity and inclusion at all levels. Applicants will need to demonstrate how they will provide for and improve access to services, services provision, and outcomes among disproportionately underrepresented populations.  
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Financials** – Will the ESG grant pay for the whole program? If there is outside funding, from whom, what kind, and is the outside funding committed? ESG funding that is awarded to agencies is intended to be supplemental.  
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Performance and Risk Assessment** – How will the proposed services be implemented? Who will implement the proposed services? What will be the frequency and duration of the proposed services? Has the agency had any issues with expending all their past or current funding? Are there any serious performance issues in past grants awarded to the agency? Are there any inconsistencies between the agency's answers and the performance reports? This section is based on a combination of Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) reports reflecting past expenditures and grants awarded by the County. The timeliness drawing down of grant funds and meeting of their targeted number of clients to be assisted will be evaluated.  
(Maximum Points Available: 20 Points)
- **Program Innovation** – Does the proposed program introduce an innovation that substantially improves the services proposed/provided? Will there be an expansion of services, are details provided? Does the proposed program go beyond the usual approach by showing it addresses a new need and/or issue or addresses a population need and/or issue that has yet to be addressed?  
(Maximum Points Available: 30 Points)
- **Grant Submittal** – This section is a combination of the application submitted and the presentation by the applicant. Is the grant application clear and accurate? Does the presentation align with the submitted application? Did the presentation clear up any questions or concerns regarding the application?  
(Maximum Points Available: 10 Points)

**Total Points Available for ESG Applications: 160 Points**

The scoring criteria to be used by the Grant Review Panel are provided to potential applicants at the Grant Technical Assistance Workshop. The Grant Review Panel will be comprised of one (1) representative from the County, one (1) city representative from each of the seven (7) Stanislaus Urban County cities, and one (1) representative from the local Continuum of Care (CoC).

## REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCIES AWARDED FUNDING

Agencies awarded ESG funding must follow these program requirements:

**Grantee Technical Workshop:** Agencies will be required to attend a pre-award grantee technical workshop prior to the release of their funding agreement to assist them in compliance with program regulations and requirements. Agencies will be instructed on how utilize the Neighborly Participant Portal, submit data reports, submit a Request for Funds (RFF) form, submit a Detailed Expense Report (DER) form, and other program related forms to the County.

**Documents Needed:** Funded agencies will be required to execute an agreement with Stanislaus County and provide the required insurance certificates and endorsements prior to the signing of an agreement. Agencies are required to provide a copy of its Personnel Policies, Policies and Procedures for implementing the program, and their Drug-Free Workplace Policy and other required documents before entering into an agreement.

**Reporting and Records:** Stanislaus County, HUD shall have access to all program records. Agencies will be required to obtain and provide individual client data including, but not limited to, ethnicity, income, disability, race, female head of household, clients 62 years and older, and accomplishment data. Quarterly and year-end performance reports are required to be entered and submitted through the Neighborly Participant Portal. Agencies shall also provide any additional reporting and records related to the program as requested. Grant files and individual client files must be maintained for a minimum of five (5) years after the expiration of the funding agreement.

**Protecting Personally Identifiable Information (PII):** Agencies must keep all client information, including credit reports, confidential and secure. Any agency staff who interact with clients and collect personal information should be trained on privacy issues and procedures to safeguard data with client information. Further laws and regulations on PII are available online via [HUD's Privacy Handbook](#), [HCD's ESG Personally Identifying Information Policy](#), and HUD's Office of Housing Counseling, [June 6, 2023, Protecting Personally Identifiable Information](#) presentation slides.

**Request for Funds Process:** Invoicing for ESG funds is required at a minimum on a quarterly basis. Request for Funds (RFF) forms also referred to as Draw Requests will be submitted in the Neighborly Participant Portal. A Detailed Expense Report form will be available in the Neighborly Participant Portal for grantees to complete and submit. ESG funds are provided on a reimbursement basis and supporting documentation must be complete and approved by County staff prior to the release of the funding reimbursement.

**Monitoring and Technical Assistance:** The program will be monitored by County staff for compliance with County and HUD requirements and regulations. HUD staff may also monitor the program for compliance during and up to five (5) years after the funding agreement expires. Program requirements including performance, accomplishments, eligibility, and expenditures will be included in monitoring desk and on-site reviews. The County will provide technical assistance as needed, or if requested, to assist with the program's progress and success. If the agency is not following the program requirements and regulations, funding may be recaptured and reimbursement of funds may be required.

**Detailed Requested Budget:** The Detailed Requested Budget section of the application must specifically detail the "Total Requested Amount" of the grant proposal and **NOT** the entire agency's program budget or the agency's entire budget. Agencies will be required to follow application budget line-item amounts when requesting funds. Ensure line items are feasible and give the agency flexibility in program expenditures.

**Fiscal Management:** Agencies must comply with federal uniform administrative requirements regarding fiscal management including financial reporting, record keeping, accounting systems, payment procedures, procurement of goods and services, conflict of interest, and audit requirements. Non-profit agencies must administer programs in compliance with OMB Uniform Guidance set forth in 2 CFR Part 200. Federal guidelines and regulations are available on the National Archives Code of Federal Regulations [Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200](#) web page.



Costs must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance and administration of the grant. Costs must be adequately documented.

**Eligible Expenses Include But Are Not Limited To:** ESG funds may be used to pay for labor, supplies, and materials as well as to operate and/or maintain the portion of a facility in which the public service is located. This includes the lease of a facility, equipment, and other property needed for the public service program. Costs incurred for telephone services, local and long-distance telephone calls, postage, messenger, electronic or computer transmittal services and the like, are allowable.

- Salaries: Salary and fringe benefits (fringe is limited to 20% of total salary costs) in the form of regular compensation paid to employees during periods of authorized absences from the job, such as vacation leave, sick leave, military leave, and the like, are allowable; provided that such costs are absorbed by all agency activities in proportion to the relative amount of time or effort actually devoted to each. Time sheets will be required to document expenses for staff and allowable time should be adjusted by the staff percentages of time allocated on the project as listed in the application. Paid Time-off (PTO), overtime, and bonuses are not allowable expenses.

**Ineligible Expenses Include But Are Not Limited To:** ESG funds may not be used to pay for food/meals for staff, fund raising, entertainment, alcoholic beverages, deposits on equipment, incentives to clients (e.g., gift cards, raffle prizes, holiday gifts, prizes for social activities, etc.), and late fees or penalties. Below are some examples of ineligible expenses, taken from ESG Program Guidelines:

- Promotion of Agency: Costs of advertising and public relations designed solely to promote the non-profit agency including costs of promotional items and memorabilia, including models, gifts, and souvenirs, are not allowed.
- Contributions or Donations: Contributions or donations, including cash, property, and services, made by the agency, regardless of the recipient, are unallowable.
- Entertainment Costs: Costs of entertainment, including amusement, diversion, and social activities and any costs directly associated with such costs (such as tickets to shows or sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities) are unallowable.
- Fundraising: Costs of organized fundraising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred solely to raise capital or obtain contributions, are unallowable.
- Goods or Services for Personal Use: Costs of goods or services for personal use of the organization's employees are unallowable.

**Match Funding:** In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 576.51, all agencies awarded ESG funds, must provide evidence of 100% match funds with each Request for Funds submittal. Matching contributions may be obtained from any source, including any federal source other than the ESG program, as well as state, local, and private sources. In order to meet the matching requirement, the matching contributions must meet the following criteria:

- (i) The recipient must ensure the laws governing any funds to be used as matching contributions do not prohibit those funds from being used to match ESG funds.
- (ii) If ESG funds are used to satisfy the matching requirements of another federal program, then funding from that program may not be used to satisfy the matching requirements under this section.
- (iii) Contributions used to match a previous ESG grant may not be used to match a subsequent ESG grant.
- (iv) Match funds must be provided after the date that HUD signs the grant agreement.
- (v) Cash match contributions must be expended within the expenditure deadline in Section 576.203.

(vi) Non-cash contributions must be made within the expenditure deadline in Section 576.203.

(vii) Non-cash contributions. The value of any real property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the sub-recipient's ESG program. To determine the value of any donated material or building, or of any lease, the recipient must use a method reasonably calculated to establish the fair market value.

**HMIS and CES:** Participation in the local Continuum of Care's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Coordinated Entry System (CES) is required.

COMBATTING FRAUD

The HUD Office of Inspector General (OIG) is committed to protecting HUD's programs, operations, and beneficiaries from dishonest individuals and agencies.

HUD relies on counties, cities, applicants, and people receiving HUD assistance to combat ESG program fraud.

The HUD OIG Hotline number is **1-800-347-3735**. This is the primary means to submit allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, or whistleblower-related matters for the ESG program to the OIG.

HUD OIG accepts reports of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement in the ESG program from HUD employees, anyone administering the ESG program, anyone working in the ESG program, contractors, and the public.

Mismanagement or violations of law, rules, or regulations by HUD employees or program participants can be reported. Fraud, waste and abuse in the ESG program and its operation may be reported in one of the following four (4) ways:

1. **By Email:** [hotline@hudoig.gov](mailto:hotline@hudoig.gov)
2. **By Toll Free Phone:** 1-800-347-3735
3. **By Fax:** (202) 708-4829
4. **By Mail:** Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Inspector General Hotline Manager  
400 Virginia Avenue, SW, Suite 120  
Washington, DC 20024

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Stanislaus County is seeking grant applications for the awarding of ESG funds that can be expended between July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027. The number of ESG applications to be awarded is dependent on the actual amount of ESG funding provided by HUD to the Stanislaus Urban County.

**ESTIMATED FY 2025 ESG PROGRAM FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$200,000\***

*\*Please see "Program Requirements" section for Estimated Allocation amounts per Eligible Activity. Stanislaus County award recommendations including caps and eligible activities may be increased or decreased based on the actual amount awarded by HUD.*

Designed as a first step in a Continuum of Care (CoC) plan of assistance, the ESG program strives to address the immediate needs of persons residing on the street and needing emergency shelter, transitional housing, as well as assisting them in their path to independent living. While flexible in terms of serving all homeless subpopulations and preventing persons from becoming homeless, ESG program legislation and implementing regulations do limit the types of activities and amount of funds that can be spent on different activities. The following categories of eligible activities and applicable limitations, including income eligibility limitations, are discussed in the "Program Requirements" section of these guidelines.

Stanislaus County, along with the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, and Waterford, form what is known as the Stanislaus Urban County, an entitlement jurisdiction. Stanislaus County serves as the “lead agency” for the Stanislaus Urban County.

As an entitlement jurisdiction, the Stanislaus Urban County is awarded ESG funds directly from HUD to facilitate programs meeting HUD’s ESG program criteria.

Final award amounts will be confirmed via email after the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approves the final funding recommendations (estimated to occur in August 2025). Funding is on a reimbursement basis only, and reimbursements will not be allowed until the awarded agencies are in a fully executed agreement with the County, as outlined in an official award letter.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

**EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG):** Limit is one (1) grant application submission per activity and up to a maximum of two (2) grant application submissions per agency. In order for a program to qualify as a separate “activity” it must either:

1. Serve a different population and be administered out of a separate location with separate staff; or
2. Offer a service that is completely separate from other applications submitted by the same agency.

Partial funding may be awarded, pending consultation with the agency to verify that the proposed program/activity may be undertaken with partial funding.

Only complete applications will be eligible for funding. All sections of the application must be filled out and all applicable documents, throughout and as identified in the “Additional Required Documents” section of the application must be included or the application will be considered incomplete. Any missing required documentation will render the application incomplete.

## GRANT SUBMISSION PROCESS

County staff will host an online grant technical assistance workshop on the ESG program and grant application process guidelines on **Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.** The grant technical assistance workshops will also include guidance on how to access the Neighborly Participant Portal, an online system used by the County for grant submissions.

Attendance is **REQUIRED** by any agencies interested in submitting a grant application before investing the time and resources to apply.

Applicants must follow the instructions in this NOFA, grant guidelines and the grant application. It is strongly recommended that applicants have all required documents available when completing the application. Failure to follow instructions and submit all required documentation will result in disqualification.

Once submitted, applications must stand on their own. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the submitted application is clear, complete, and accurate. County staff may request clarifying information but are unable to accept any new documentation that would provide an unfair advantage over other applications. It is strongly recommended that all documents be reviewed and saved to their own electronic files prior to submission.

The grant application and all required attachments must be submitted to the County through the Neighborly Participant Portal. Applicants must certify that all information is true and complete to the best of their knowledge, under penalty of perjury Per 83 FR 5848 “Any person who knowingly makes a false claim or statement to HUD may be subject to civil or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. Sections 287, 1001 and 31 U.S.C. Section 3729.”

To submit an application, applicants that do not already have a Neighborly account will need to create one. Only authorized signers of an agency submitting an application should register as account users. The application will need to be electronically signed by an authorized individual of the agency. There is no cost associated with a Neighborly Participant Portal account. Please [click here](#) to create an account.

## OPTIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSIONS

To assist applicants with the application process County staff will be hosting two **OPTIONAL** virtual Questions and Answers sessions.\*

- Session 1 – Monday, June 30, 2025, from 11:00 am – 12:00 p.m. Please [Click Here](#) to join the meeting.
- Session 2 – Wednesday, July 2, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please [Click Here](#) to join the meeting.

**\*County staff is available to help throughout the application process via phone: (209) 525-6330 and email: [CommunityDevelopment@stancounty.com](mailto:CommunityDevelopment@stancounty.com). The Questions and Answers sessions are additional resources available for applicants to utilize.**

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

All applicants must register online through the Stanislaus County [Neighborhoodly Participant Portal](#).

After registering and logging in, click on the appropriate application link on the home page to apply.

When using the Neighborhoodly Participant Portal please keep in mind the following:

- The Neighborhoodly Participant Portal does **not** automatically save your work.
- There is a save option and applicants are strongly encouraged to save their progress as they work on their application.
- **SAVED APPLICATIONS ARE NOT THE SAME AS SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS.**
- To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted prior to the **July 8, 2025, 5:00 p.m.** deadline.
- The successful submission of a grant application through the Neighborhoodly Participant Portal is **not** a formal acceptance of the application.
- All application submissions will be reviewed by County staff for basic program eligibility and application completeness.
- Confirm that all questions and applicable fields have been completed.
- Confirm that all required documents have been uploaded.
- Any missing required documentation will render the application incomplete, and it will not be considered for funding.

### **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

The deadline to submit grant applications via the Neighborhoodly Participant Portal is **Tuesday, July 8, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact County staff by phone at: (209) 525-6330 or via email at: [CommunityDevelopment@stancounty.com](mailto:CommunityDevelopment@stancounty.com).