

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH)



PUBLIC NOTICE

State of Iowa's Proposed Use of ESG RUSH

On September 6, 2024, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made a special allocation of \$151,114 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding to the State of Iowa to address the needs of homeless individuals or families or individuals or families at risk of homelessness in areas affected by a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) whose needs are not otherwise served or fully met by existing Federal disaster relief programs, including the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program under such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b). This allocation of “Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing” (RUSH) funding under the ESG Program is in response to the President’s major disaster declarations dated May 14, 2024, DR-4779-IA, for severe storms and tornadoes and May 24, 2024, DR-4784-IA, in response to severe storms, tornadoes and flooding. and the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) determination that this disaster was severe enough to activate its TSA program. For the State of Iowa, through the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), to receive ESG RUSH funds, IFA must submit, for HUD’s approval, a substantial amendment to the State’s Annual Action Plan (AAP) for Program Year 2024. This substantial amendment proposes to amend the 2024 AAP to include the State of Iowa’s ESG RUSH funding and activities to enable the State to receive and administer ESG RUSH funds.

In collaboration with the Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care, current ESG subrecipients serving the Iowa counties most impacted by the tornadoes and severe storms that occurred under Presidential major disaster declarations DR-2779-IA and DR-4784-IA, and Iowa Homeland and Security Management officials, IFA has identified the following proposed ESG RUSH activities:

Proposed Activity	Proposed Funding Amount
Street Outreach	\$20,000
Shelter	\$50,855
Homelessness Prevention	\$76,053
Rapid Rehousing	\$0
HMIS (maximum 5%)	\$3,022
Administration (maximum 2%)	\$1,184
TOTAL ESG RUSH	\$151,114

ESG RUSH funding may be disbursed in the following major disaster declared counties under DR-2779-IA and DR-4784-IA: Adair, Adams, Cedar, Clarke, Harrison, Jasper, Mills, Montgomery, Polk, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Shelby, Story, and Union. Since HUD allocated the City of Des Moines \$534,905 in ESG RUSH funding, the State of Iowa will not expend ESG RUSH funds in Polk County.

To be eligible for assistance provided with ESG RUSH funds, an individual or family must:

1. Be “homeless” or “at risk of homelessness” as those terms are defined at 24 CFR 567.2 or meet the new criteria in section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;
2. Have been residing in a declared disaster area; and
3. Have needs that will not be served or fully met by the TSA Program (42 U.S.C. 5170b), NCS, and/or other existing Federal disaster relief programs.

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A household will not be required to requalify as homeless or at risk of homelessness for purposes of RUSH funds if the household was already determined to meet the definition of homeless or at risk of homelessness and was receiving ESG assistance when the disaster occurred.

The State of Iowa will prioritize ESG RUSH funding for eligible households residing in the two counties that suffered the most significant damage to their housing stock under DR-2779-IA and DR-4784-IA: Adair County (Greenfield tornado) and Pottawattamie County (Minden tornado). ESG RUSH funds will be awarded to two current ESG subrecipients serving those areas that have been active participants in providing disaster relief to impacted Iowans.

The State of Iowa will incorporate HUD's prior approval of pre-award costs necessary for efficient and timely performance of eligible ESG RUSH activities. Covered pre-award costs are those incurred between and including the date of HUD's ESG RUSH award notification letter (sent September 6, 2024) and the date immediately preceding the start date of the period of performance/budget for the grant that are in compliance with all conditions specified in Section V of the ESG RUSH Notice published July 18, 2024.

Other aspects of the 2024 AAP will remain unchanged.

This public notice satisfies the requirements described in the ESG RUSH Notice published July 18, 2024, and the State of Iowa's ESG RUSH funding allocation letter sent to Governor Kim Reynolds on September 6, 2024, by the Principal Deputy Assistance Secretary of HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development, which require the State to publish how it will use its ESG RUSH allocation, at a minimum, on the Internet, at the appropriate government web site or through other electronic media.

The State of Iowa does not discriminate against any person because of their race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition, consistent with applicable state and federal policies and regulations.