

Using ESG-CV Funding to End Homelessness: A Training with ODOD

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated December 8, 2021

Question	Answer
Grants Management	
Is the ESG-CV funding that the Ohio Department of Development distributes available to agencies that are not current ODOD grantees?	No. ODOD is only awarding additional ESG-CV funds to HCRP-CARES grantees via the grant amendment process for Emergency Shelter and Housing Stability activities and to current HCRP or SHP grantees for Renovation and Street Outreach.
If our agency/partners have not yet expended all of our ESG-CV funds awarded as part of Round 1, should we request additional ESG-CV funds now?	It depends how much of the Round 1 funds have been expended and what your future costs are anticipated to be. If you need additional funds, then you should request them through the grant amendment process.
If we are not the HCRP Lead, but are a partner on an HCRP-CARES grant, can we submit a grant amendment request on our own for additional fund?	No. HCRP-CARES partner agencies must work through their HCRP Lead to submit a grant amendment for additional funds.
To utilize all of the new ESG-CV CARES waivers & flexibilities, does the HCRP Lead grantee agency need to submit a waiver of some kind to ODOD?	No. All HCRP grantees and partners are able to engage in all the eligible activities and use all flexibilities and opportunities available via ESG-CV funding. You can find details in the ESG-CV Notice .
Do we have to amend our grants to add landlord incentives if those were not included in the original grant application?	No. All HCRP grantees and partners are able to engage in all the eligible activities and use all flexibilities and opportunities available via ESG-CV funding.
When must ESG-CV funding be spent by?	No costs can be incurred for ESG-CV funding after 9/30/22, meaning ESG-CV funding cannot pay for any costs after 9/30/22.
Can we submit an amendment to extend our grant for ESG-CV funding beyond 9/30/2022?	No.

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Should I submit an amendment to extend the term of our current grant that includes ESG-CV funding 9/30/2022? It currently expires 12/31/21?	No. The work completion date for all ESG-CV funded activities including Emergency Shelter is 9/30/22. However, that is not the date listed in the HCRP CARES grant agreements, as ODOD issued HCRP-CARES grant agreements prior to HUD's publishing of the ESG-CV work completion date. At the beginning of the year, ODOD will reach out to HCRP-CARES grant recipients to amend their grants to extend their grants' work completion dates to align with HUD's.
Does ODOD want HCRP Leads and partners to spend regular HCRP or ESG-CV funds first?	<p>Ideally, HCRP Leads and partners would scale up their programs, serve more households, and spend both HCRP and ESG-CV funds (also called HCRP-CARES) at the SAME time. However, if your agencies are struggling to add staff capacity to do this, you may consider prioritizing spending of the ESG-CV funds first, in part b/c there are more eligible activities and more flexibility.</p> <p>If your agency is not able to fully expend your current HCRP grant, reach out to your grant manager to let them know. ODOD will not impose consequences on HCRP Leads or partners who are not able to fully expend HCRP grants at this time, especially if they are working hard to spend ESG-CV funding.</p>
Can we submit a grant amendment request to extend the end date of our current HCRP grant if it expires soon?	HCRP grantees should contact their grant manger if they expect not to be able to expend all their PY 2019 HCRP funds within the grant period.
Do expenditures of ESG-CV/HCRP-CARES funds have to be COVID related?	All HP and RRH activities are, by definition, helping to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. So no additional documentation, particularly at the client level, is needed for those activities. For shelter or outreach activities that are funded with ESG-CV, the grantee must be able to document at the program level that the funds are paying for eligible activities that are related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus. There are no client-level documentation requirements.
Landlord Incentives	
If we are paying for repairs to damages to a unit caused by a client, or paying for extra maintenance/cleaning of a unit, as allowed under the Landlord incentives, what are the limits to these costs?	You can pay for damages, extra maintenance, cleaning in an amount that is no more than 3 times the unit rent.

Question	Answer
Can landlord incentives paid for by ESG-CV funds only be offered by RRH/HP projects?	Yes.
Other Questions	
Workforce retention in this environment is critical. We cannot do the work without staff. Could ESG-CV funds be used to pay for staff costs?	Absolutely. ESG-CV funds can be used to pay for basic staff costs in shelters or in HP or RRH projects. Additionally, ESG-CV funds can pay for hazard pay for staff working in those projects engaging in eligible activities. Hazard pay can be ongoing or can be done via bonuses (one time or multiple times). If your agency wants to offer hazard pay to your staff with these funds, you first need to adopt a formal policy that explains how the hazard pay is provided and to whom. View HUD guidance for more details on what that policy must include.
Is there a particular way ODOD wants to see hazard pay spent? I.e, bonuses vs. ongoing pay increases?	ODOD has no preference for how an agency may provide hazard pay to its staff with ESG-CV funds. Agencies just need to ensure they follow HUD requirements related to establishing a formal policy to guide the provision of hazard pay.
How will exceeding FMR work if a client is still assisted 1 year from now? Will clients be required to move to a unit that meets FMR when the ESG-CV funding period ends or at their annual assessment?	Rent reasonableness and FMR are assessed to determine whether HCRP/HCRP CARES funds can be used to move the client into the housing. Since you do not have to document that a unit is rent reasonable or that it meets FMR (if required) at any point after the client has been housed, this should not be an issue.
How can ESG-CV funds be used to provide furniture to RRH clients?	Although these are eligible costs under ESG-CV, ODOD does not encourage grantees to use their HCRP-CARES grants for this purpose. This is primarily because HCRP-CARES grantees/partners are only permitted to provide furniture while the client is receiving RRH services. Grantees/partners would have to collect the furniture from the client upon exit from the program.
What documentation is required to use the ESG-CV funds to provide vaccine incentives to clients?	HUD has not outlined any specific client-level documentation requirements. However, it is reasonable for providers to document the provision of the vaccine incentive in a client file with a basic note about the date the incentive was provided, how much, and for which dose. Additionally, ESG-CV funds may only be used for vaccine incentives to the extent that other vaccine incentives are inaccessible or unavailable to people experiencing homelessness within the community. Up to \$50, cash, can be provider per dose to clients.

Question	Answer
<p>How can we use these funds to provide cell phone access to clients of shelter, HP, or RRH?</p>	<p>For HP and RRH projects, to qualify as an eligible cost, the cell phone must be owned by the grantee, and the wireless service plan must be the grantee's, but the phone may be loaned to program participants and the wireless service cost may be paid as needed to enable program participants to participate in activities necessary to obtain or maintain housing (e.g., to interview for jobs, to receive health and mental health services, or to continue education). The phone and phone service may be loaned to the participant while stay-at-home or social distancing orders are in effect in the community in which the program participant resides, or while they continue to need it to participate in activities necessary to obtain and maintain housing that remain virtual even after social distancing measures are relaxed and must be returned to the grantee when no longer necessary for these purposes. Emergency shelter providers are able to make phones available for use by residents already, but those phones are owned and maintained by the shelter provider.</p>
<p>If a community wants to add new or additional street outreach in their community, could they do so by amending a current shelter grant, for example, to add a Street Outreach position for the shelter?</p>	<p>ESG-CV funding for Street Outreach can only be accessed through the TOPP process and cannot be accessed by amending HCRP-CARES grant agreements. Agencies interested in this activity should note that ODOD does not have funding available for this activity past the work completion date of 9/30/22. ODOD would encourage any agency interested in doing something like that to first reach out to their grant manager to discuss.</p>
<p>Can ESG-CV funds be used to pay for updating security systems at a shelter?</p>	<p>Possibly. Grantees should first confer with their ODOD grant manager.</p>
<p>We have a program to pay utility bills for community members in crisis or threat of utility shutoff. Can we use ESG-CV/HCRP CARES funding for this program - as a means of preventing homelessness?</p>	<p>No. ESG-CV funds can only be used to assist those households enrolled in an ESG-CV funded HP, RRH, or ES project. But if you have an HP project currently, you may use those funds to provide utility assistance for eligible households in your program, in compliance with the ESG-CV Notice.</p>