

ESG COVID 19 PROGRAM UPDATES

Our Office has implemented the following waiver changes to the ESG and include additional eligible activities for ESG-COVID Programs:



ESG REHOUSING AND PREVENTION HABITABILITY STANDARDS

Requirement: Inspections must be conducted upon initial occupancy and then on an annual basis for the term of ESG assistance.

Waiver: Subrecipient may virtually inspect each unit to assure that the unit meets HQS before providing assistance on behalf of a program participant is in effect for ESG recipients or have another party (i.e. landlord or tenant) inspect the unit.

RE-EVALUATIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION ASSISTANCE

Requirement: Homelessness prevention assistance is subject to a re-evaluation of each program participant's eligibility need for assistance not less than once every 3 months.

Waiver: The required frequency of re-evaluations for homelessness prevention assistance under section 576.401(b) is waived for up to 2-years as of **March 31, 2020**, but the Subrecipient must conduct the required re-evaluations not less than once every 6 months.

HOUSING STABILITY CASE MANAGEMENT

Requirements: Program participants receiving homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing assistance must meet with a case manager not less than once per month unless certain statutory prohibitions apply.

Waiver: 2-month waiver of this requirement beginning **March 31, 2020**, until **May 31, 2020**.

RESTRICTION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO UNITS WITH RENT AT OR BELOW FMR

Requirement: Under **24 CFR 576.106(d)(1)**, rental assistance cannot be provided unless the total rent is equal to or less than the FMR established by HUD, as provided under **24 CFR Part 888**, and complies with HUD's standard of rent reasonableness, as established under **24 CFR 982.507**.

Waiver: The FMR restriction is waived for any individual or family receiving Rapid Re-housing or Homelessness Prevention assistance who executes a lease for a unit during the 6-month period beginning on **March 31, 2020**, until **August 31, 2020**. The ESG Subrecipient must still ensure that the units in which ESG assistance is provided to these individuals and families meet the rent reasonableness standard.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE ESG-COVID-19 ACTIVITIES

The ESG Program Interim Rule at **24 CFR Part 576** applies to **ESG-CV** funds except for the requirements specified in the CARES Act.

ESG-CV funds may be used to pay for the costs of Rapid-Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention assistance.

For more information contact the Cobb County CDBG Program Office at **770-528-1455** or via email at info@cobbcountycdbg.com.

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