

Frequently Asked Questions

CARES Act Funding

***Last Updated: June 1, 2020***

***What does TDHCA stand*** *for?*

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

***What does ESG stand for?***

Emergency Solutions Grant

***Where can I find the Request for Application for CARES Act Funding offered by MDHA?***

<https://www.mdhadallas.org/tdhca-nofa/>

***What is the grant period for this application?***

The grant start date will begin as soon as the grant agreement is executed with TDHCA. However, all expenditures must be made by July 31, 2021.

If the agency accrued COVID-19 related costs dating back to March 13, 2020, the agency may apply for an agency reimbursement from TDHCA if awarded for CARES Act funding.

***What are the CoC Board approved priorities, including the amount allocated to each funding type?***

The priorities are:

*To serve the most vulnerable people in these categories:*

- Those 65 years old and over

- Those with chronic health conditions

- Unsheltered populations

*To provide these services to those populations:*

$1,035,000 – Rapid Rehousing

$575,000 – Outreach

$690,000 – Prevention

***Does our agency need to be a member of the Continuum of Care to apply for this funding?***

At application submission, the applicant does not have to be a member of the Continuum. However, once awarded, the applicant is expected to join the Continuum within 60 days of contract award.

The ESG program also mandates each agency to enter data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Award recipients must gain access by contacting the HMIS Director.

***For the Written Standards and the Termination Policy, can we submit our program’s policies and procedures or a written statement that we have included all applicable standards in our policies?***

The agency can submit their Policies and Procedures in place of the Written Standards and Termination Policy. However, the agency should include a written statement of where to find these items within the document.

***If we have not received funding through MDHA before, will we need to submit Attachment B "Previous Participation"?***

All applicants must complete Attachment B.

***If we have received first round TDHCA CARES Act Funding as an existing recipient, will we be penalized on this application for this portion of the CARES funding?***

No.

***Does emergency shelter qualify within the "prevention" priorities or is it a standalone category?***

Emergency shelters can apply for prevention funding. But Prevention funding has a very specific set of services that fall under that category and must be used for those “at imminent risk” of homelessness. It is strongly recommended that emergency shelters use prevention funding in conjunction with diversion practices.

***Can you apply for more than one category?***

Yes.

***How granular should we go on outcomes for Street Outreach? i.e. some are served by assistance with recovering critical documents, some are provided transportation to a family member's home, some are entered on the HPL, etc.***

Agencies should use the narrative section on the application to describe in as much detail as possible, how the money will be spent.

**Are these funds for those that are literally homeless only?**

Prevention is the only category that supports those who are at imminent risk.

***If Emergency Shelter is not listed as a priority would this funding support an Emergency Shelter application?***

Yes, it can be applied for, but is not a priority with this funding source.

**For the prevention funding - does it also include diversion? Meaning we could serve those who are at imminent risk and those who come to the shelter but who could get diverted to family while we work to secure alternative housing?**

Yes, but there must be a clear distinction when you are using Diversion funding for those who are literally homeless and Prevention funding for those at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

***How do we find out if we are members of CoC?***

<https://www.mdhadallas.org/coc-membership/>

***Are there case management dollars for Rapid Rehousing?***

Yes.