

July 13, 2020

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TO: Housing and Community Development
Commission (HCDC)



FROM: Brenda O'Connell, Continuum of Care Program
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Summary

With the CARES Act, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) received unprecedented investment in the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness. The ESG program supports emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, outreach, homeless prevention and HMIS. In April, the Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) approved \$777,472 of the first round of ESG funding (ESG-CV1) for grants that support the crisis response to COVID-19. This was in addition to the regular ESG allocation of \$225,467 which will be submitted to HUD this week, pending County Board approval.

In June, HUD announced an additional allocation of ESG (ESG-CV2) to Lake County in the amount of \$1,520,868. With this allocation of funding, staff recommends conducting a special allocation round for the ESG-CV2 funding to allow for a strategic funding round that responds to the local need. Staff would simplify the traditional application to focus on issues critical to the response to COVID-19. Given that ESG and ESG-CV1 grants will be active in the community, staff believe there is enough funding to sustain agencies through the process. While this is additional work for staff and community agencies, staff believes the process would be better informed if we gather information from the community partner agencies.

Funding Timeline

Staff proposes the following timeline for the ESG-CV2 special application round.

Milestone	Target Date
Develop and approve funding plan.	July 15, 2020
Release application to community partners.	August 2020
Applications from community partners submitted.	September 2020
Advisory and Recommendation Committee (ARC) review	September 25, 2020
HCDC approval of amended Annual Action Plan (AAP)	October 14, 2020
County Board approval of AAP	November 10, 2020
Submit AAP to HUD	November 13, 2020
Contracts out to community partners	January 2021