

4. ESG Narratives and Proposed Projects



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4.1 What Does This Section Contain?

The 2005 Annual Action Plan provides certain information about the Municipality's Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds.

What Does This Mean to Me?

This section answers the following questions:

- What is the Federal Investment Criteria for the ESG Program?
- What types of projects can ESG fund?
- What are the ESG funding sources for the 2005 Program Year?
- What projects are proposed by the Municipality to be ESG funded?

4.2 Introduction

The Municipality of Anchorage is a Grantee for HUD's ESG program. It receives ESG funds annually that it can use to help prevent homelessness or provide support to homeless shelters. Although the Community Development Division is the coordinating entity for both the Continuum of Care and the Consolidated Plan, it passes ESG funds through to the Department of Health and Human Services. SAFE City program staff at the Department of Health and Human Services administers the ESG Program for the Municipality.

4.3 Federal Investment Criteria

HUD prescribes the maximum proportion that may be spent in ESG in each of four categories. The percentages are shown in the following table.

Table 4-1. ESG Federal Investment Criteria

Activities	Maximum Percentage
Homeless Prevention	30%
Essential Services	30%
Maintenance and Operations	35%
Administration	5%
TOTAL	100%

4.4 Match

HUD requires that the grantee provide a 100 percent match for ESG funding. The Health Department will meet this match through Municipal funds to pay for the staff to administer and oversee the ESG program. This match of salaries should total more than \$100,000 during the 2005 program year. Other forms of match include transportation discounts and purchases of equipment and supplies.

4.5 Distribution of Funds – FY 04 Funds

In the 2004 Action Plan, it was incorrectly stated that Maintenance and Operations funds would be used for the Municipal Transit Center. Maintenance and Operations funds will be distributed through a Request for Grant Proposals during the Fall of 2004 along with FY03 funds.

4.6 Distribution of Funds – FY05 Funds

Funds for Homeless Prevention and Essential Services will be distributed directly to those in need by the SAFE City Program. Maintenance & Operations funds will be distributed by contract, except for up to \$5,000 that will be retained for maintenance and operation costs related to the Municipal Public Inebriate Transfer Station. For the remainder of the funds, a contractor will be selected through a competitive Request for Grant Proposal (RFGP) process.

4.7 ESG Resources

Approximately \$84,247 in Federal funds from the ESG program is anticipated to be available in PY 2004 to help provide decent housing, establish and maintain a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities, especially for low- and moderate-income persons.

4.8 Proposed ESG Project Funding Summary

Table 4-2. ESG Proposed Project Funding Summary

Emergency Shelter Grant	Estimated Prior Year Funds Available in 2005	New 2005 Funds	Total Funding Estimated for 2005
1. Administration	0	4,179	4,179
2. Homeless Prevention (DHHS/SAFE City)	0	25,072	25,072
3. Essential Services (DHHS/SAFE City)	0	25,072	25,072
4. Maintenance and Operations (RFP)	50,000	29,250	79,250
TOTAL:	50,000	83,573	133,573

4.9 Proposed ESG Project Descriptions

4.9.1 Homeless Prevention

Monies for Homeless Prevention will be distributed directly to those in need by the SAFE City Program. Assistance activities under this category include defraying rent and/or utility arrearages for individuals and families that have received eviction or shut-off notices.

Individuals or families may also receive security deposits or first month's rent assistance to alleviate or prevent a homeless situation. The emphasis is to prevent individuals and/or families from becoming homeless due to a short-term, unanticipated reduction in income. This assistance is, generally, up to about \$250, provided on a one-time basis to prevent an eviction or utility shut-off. Additionally, this assistance is provided from October through March, or until the funds are exhausted. This program anticipates serving about 15 to 20 households per month for six months under this category. Applications for assistance under this category are accepted and screened for eligibility at the beginning of each month. During periods when funding is not available, households seeking assistance are referred to other programs/agencies and faith-based organizations which provide like services.

ESG funds (PY2005): \$25,072

4.9.2 Essential Services

Monies for Essential Services will be distributed directly to those in need by the SAFE City Program. Activities include providing assistance to those who are homeless to secure permanent housing and maintain independent living. This objective is supported by providing security and utility deposits, transportation to alcohol detoxification and treatment, as well as to other health care, job training and employment opportunities. Applications for security and utility deposits are accepted and screened in the same manner as indicated above, however, in the case of Essential Services assistance, an applicant must provide documentation confirming or attest, through personal statement, that they are in fact homeless. Transportation is provided via taxi vouchers through Bean's Cafe and Brother Francis shelter for accessing alcohol detoxification and treatment services. Additionally, this program purchases about \$10,000 in bus tokens/passes which are distributed to Emergency Homeless Shelters and other community homeless service providers to assist homeless persons in obtaining health care, job skills and opportunities aimed at alleviating their homeless situation.

ESG funds (PY2005): \$25,072

4.9.3 Maintenance and Operations

A small amount of Maintenance and Operations funds (up to \$5,000) will be retained by the Municipality for maintenance and operation costs related to the Municipal Public Inebriate Transfer Station. The remaining Maintenance & Operations funds (\$24,250) will be distributed

through contracts. Contractors will be selected through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFGP) process. Activities which fall under this category include defraying maintenance and operating costs of emergency and transitional shelters for homeless persons, including rent, repair, security, fuels and equipment costs, insurances, utilities, and/or furnishings. FY2004 and FY2003 funds, available through RFGP process in the Fall of 2004, may be utilized during the early months of 2005.

ESG funds (Prior PY2005): \$50,000
ESG funds (PY2005): \$29,250
ESG funds Total Balance: \$79,250

4.9.4 Administration

These funds, representing 5% or \$4,179 of the \$83,573 award, will be used to satisfy Municipal indirect costs generated by administering the Emergency Shelter Grant Program. Administrative costs include finance and accounting, payroll, purchasing, personnel, etc. The Emergency Shelter Grant is managed by the Department of Health and Human Services (SAFE City) program staff.

ESG funds (PY2005): \$4,179