

CITY OF LAWRENCE, MA
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO ANNUAL ACTION PLANS FY18, FY19 and FY20
(HUD Program Years 2017, 2018 and 2019)
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program

Jurisdiction(s): Lawrence, MA

Jurisdiction Web Address: www.cityoflawrence.com

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The City of Lawrence, MA, is a federal entitlement community that receives annual allocations of Hearth Act Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City is required to prepare an Annual Action Plan detailing the uses of entitlement funds to meet its affordable housing and community development goals as outlined in its Consolidated Plan.

For HUD program years 2017-2019, the City is proposing to make a substantial amendment to its submitted Annual Action Plans for FY18, FY19 and FY20 (HUD Program Years 2017, 2018 and 2019). The purpose of the substantial amendment is to allocate these three annual entitlement ESG allocations in the amounts of \$136,695, \$137,175, and \$147,883, respectively, totaling \$421,753, to supplement the ESG-CV 1 & 2 funding allocations received under the CARES Act in 2020, to further support the City of Lawrence in its efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Funds will be used by the City and its sub-recipients to provide and administer homelessness prevention and intervention services and projects through the provision of rapid re-housing and housing stabilization, street outreach, shelter support services and/or homelessness prevention to individuals/families directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, to respond to the overwhelming need for emergency rental assistance. This effort is in alignment with the City's 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan priority to provide assistance for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless through homeless prevention; rapid re-housing (rental assistance) and Rental Assistance Services.

ESG Budget—Program Years 2017, 2018 & 2019

Funding Category	Budget Amount
Rapid Rehousing, Street Outreach, Shelter Support Services, Homelessness Prevention	\$379,577.70
Administration (10%)	\$ 42,175.30
Total	\$421,753

Alternative HUD requirements and flexibilities provided in the ESG-CV Notice CPD-20-08: Waivers and Alternative Requirements for the Emergency Solutions Grant ESG Program Under the CARES Act (<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/20-08cpdn.pdf>) are applicable to annual ESG funding when those funds are used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus and requirements in Section IV of the ESG-CV Notice are met.

The CARES Act provides that the City must follow our existing requirements for development of this substantial amendment to our action plan that describes the amount of funding in the supplemental allocation and the planned use of funds. However, that the 30-day minimum for the required public comment period is waived for this substantial amendment; instead, the City must provide no less than five (5) days for public comment on the substantial amendment.

The CARES Act provides that the ESG and the ESG-CV funds are not subject to the consultation and citizen participation requirements that otherwise apply to the Emergency Solutions Grants, however each recipient must publish how its allocation has and will be used, at a minimum, on the Internet at the appropriate Government web site or through other electronic media. These ESG funds follow the same guidance and fall under HUD waivers set forth for all CARES Act funding.

The City of Lawrence has published this document specifying how the allocation will be used on its website on April 26, 2021, and has provided notice of this posting through its social media accounts.