

# Eligible ESG Program Costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness

March 5, 2020

Individuals experiencing homelessness are at greater risk of exposure to a variety of infectious diseases including influenza and coronavirus. Taking effective sanitation measures can reduce the spread of infectious disease for people who are unsheltered or living in emergency shelters. ESG Program recipients may use ESG Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter funds for essential supplies and services to reduce the spread of infectious disease in their programs.

## Eligible Costs to Support Infectious Disease Preparedness

<b>Emergency Shelter – Shelter Operations:</b>	
Maintaining a sanitary shelter environment will help to keep staff and participants healthy. Listed below are supplies and equipment that are eligible Shelter Operations costs, which could be useful to limit the spread of disease.	
Supplies	Cleaning supplies such as bleach, disinfectant wipes, scrubbers, mops
	Protective equipment such as masks, disposable gloves
	Program participant needs such as bed linens, towels, hand sanitizer, soap, tissue packets
Furnishings	Cots, room dividers
Equipment	Washers, dryers, portable handwashing stations
Transportation	Train or bus tokens, taxi or rideshare for program participant travel to and from medical care
<b>Street Outreach</b>	
Engagement – Urgent physical needs	Hand sanitizer, soap, tissue packets, masks
Engagement - Equipping staff	Masks, disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, other personal protective equipment
Case management – Referrals	Coordinating medical care
Transportation	Train or bus tokens, taxi or rideshare for program participant travel to and from medical care
<b>Expanded Staffing</b>	
Hiring additional staff to support infectious disease preparedness.	
<i>Note: Be sure to provide staff with training about precautions they can take to stay healthy, stop the spread of germs, and to stay home if they are feeling sick.</i>	

## PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

**Shelter providers:** If your shelter or outreach program needs additional supplies or staffing that will impact your approved budget, please check with your ESG recipient (i.e., State or City/County funder) on how to initiate a budget modification.

### ESG Recipients:

- Importantly, the Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach cap is a statutory requirement that HUD cannot waive.
- Budget changes:
  - Amend your Consolidated Plan/Annual Action plan to:
    - Change your allocation priorities;
    - Carry out an activity not previously described in your plan; or
    - Change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity
  - Check your citizen participation plan to determine if a budget change constitutes a substantial amendment
  - Contact your local HUD CPD field office for additional assistance
- If your state, city, or county has prior year ESG grant funds – contact your local HUD CPD field office to determine whether these resources can be utilized to support local infectious disease preparedness.

**This resource is prepared by technical assistance providers and intended to help recipients and subrecipients understand the ESG Program Interim Rule. Always refer to the program regulations to ensure compliance with program requirements.**

## Related Resources

For more information on this issue, see the [ESG Program Interim Rule](#) at §576.101 (Street Outreach) and §576.102 (Emergency Shelter), and HUD's [Emergency Solutions Grants Program Components and Activities](#) webinar.

Check back frequently to the [Disease Risks and Homelessness](#) page on the HUD Exchange to access the latest information and policy guidance.

Also see HUD's newly released [Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs](#), which provides guidance for planning and responding to Influenza, Coronavirus, and other infectious diseases.

## Ask A Question

Submit your questions to the [Ask A Question \(AAQ\) portal](#). In Step 2 of the question submission process, select "CoC: Continuum of Care Program" from the "My question is related to" drop down list and write "Health Preparedness and Response" in the subject line.