

PUBLIC NOTICE
on the Department of Human Services'
Homeless Programs Office's
Use of Emergency Solutions Grant Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing Grant

As authorized by 42 U.S.C. 11364a(c)(1), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will make a special allocation of \$1,339,404 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding to the State of Hawaii to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, or families or individuals at risk of homelessness in areas affected by a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) on December 20, 2019, whose needs are not otherwise served or fully met by existing Federal disaster relief programs, including the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program under such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b). This allocation of "Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing" (RUSH) funding under the ESG Program is in response to the President's major disaster declaration dated August 10, 2023, DR-4724-HI, for the Hawaii Wildfires, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) determination that this disaster was severe enough to activate its TSA program.

For the State of Hawaii, through the Homeless Program Office of the Department of Human Services (DHS-HPO) to receive ESG RUSH funds, the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), must submit, for HUD's approval, a substantial amendment to the State's *Annual Action Plan* for Program Year 2023. This substantial amendment proposes to amend the PY2023 AAP to include DHS-HPO's ESG RUSH funding and activities.

In collaboration with HUD and Bridging the Gap (the Continuum of Care representing the neighbor island counties), DHS-HPO identified the following activities:

ESG RUSH funding may be disbursed in the rural counties of Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai, and the City and County of Honolulu, utilizing one centralized provider. This provider may have associated offices in the aforementioned counties, or may collaborate with other providers in those counties. The intent is to simplify and expedite permanent housing placements outside of Maui if the program participant chooses to move to another island. The program will provide time-limited housing support, financial assistance, and stabilization services. To provide immediate assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness or families or individuals at risk of homelessness in areas affected by the Hawaii Wildfires, ESG RUSH funding is anticipated to be used as follows:

- **\$68,000** or 5% of the total grant amount will be used for Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) oversight responsibilities, including HMIS data entry for newly-awarded organizations to help with Continuum of Care data quality, timeliness and reporting, adherence to Coordinated Entry System requirements, and HMIS policies and procedures.
- **\$95,355** or 7.5% of the total grant amount will be used for the provider's administrative costs, which includes oversight to ensure compliance with program requirements and expenditure thresholds and deadlines. Note that DHS-HPO will not retain any ESG RUSH funds for administration purposes.

- **\$235,210** or 20% of the remaining grant amount (less administrative and HMIS costs) will be used to provide homeless prevention (HP) services (housing relocation and stabilization services coupled with rental assistance to prevent households from becoming homeless).
- **\$940,839** or 80% of the remaining grant amount (less administrative and HMIS costs) will be used to provide rapid re-housing (RRH) services (in addition to HP services, longer term rent subsidies and supportive services in alignment with ESG RUSH regulations to support higher-acuity clients).

DHS-HPO will incorporate HUD's prior approval of necessary pre-award costs for efficient and timely performance of eligible RUSH activities. Covered pre-award costs are those incurred between and including the date of ESG RUSH award notification and the date immediately preceding the start date of the period of performance/budget period for the grant. DHS-HPO may request reprogramming of funds necessitated by community need.

Other aspects of the *PY2023 Annual Action Plan* will remain the same.

This public notice satisfies the requirement described in the State's ESG RUSH grant award letter, dated August 23, 2023 by the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development, which requires each grantee of ESG RUSH funds to publish how it will use its ESG RUSH allocation, at a minimum, on the Internet at the appropriate Government website or through other electronic media.

HHFDC does not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, familial status, ancestry, age, marital status, or HIV status.

Dean Minakami
Interim Executive Director



October 9, 2023