

Continuum of Care and ESG Regulatory Coordination Requirements

Regulatory Citation

24 CFR §576.400(a) – Area-Wide Systems Coordination Requirements

The Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program requires recipients and subrecipients to coordinate and consult with the Continuum of Care serving the geographic area.

Consultation with the Continuum of Care

Pursuant to 24 CFR §576.400(a):

The recipient must consult with each Continuum of Care that serves the recipient's jurisdiction in determining how to allocate ESG funds each program year; developing the performance standards for, and evaluating the outcomes of, projects and activities assisted by ESG funds; and developing funding, policies, and procedures for the administration and operation of the HMIS.

Coordination With Other Targeted Homeless Services

Pursuant to 24 CFR §576.400(b):

The recipient and its subrecipients must coordinate and integrate, to the maximum extent practicable, ESG-funded activities with other programs targeted to homeless people in the area covered by the Continuum of Care or area over which the services are coordinated to provide a strategic, community-wide system to prevent and end homelessness for that area.

Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System (Coordinated Entry)

Pursuant to 24 CFR §576.400(d):

Once the Continuum of Care has developed a centralized assessment system or a coordinated assessment system in accordance with requirements to be established by HUD, each ESG-funded program or project within the Continuum of Care's area must use that assessment system. The recipient and subrecipient must work with the Continuum of Care to ensure the screening, assessment and referral of program participants are consistent with the written standards required by paragraph (e) of this section. A victim service provider may choose not to use the Continuum of Care's centralized or coordinated assessment system.

HMIS Participation

Pursuant to 24 CFR §576.400(f)

The recipient must ensure that data on all persons served and all activities assisted under ESG are entered into the applicable community-wide HMIS in the area in which those persons and activities are located, or a comparable database, in accordance with HUD's standards on participation, data collection, and reporting under a local HMIS. If the subrecipient is a victim service provider or a legal services provider, it may use a comparable database that collects client-level data over time (*i.e.*, longitudinal data) and generates unduplicated aggregate reports based on the data. Information entered into a comparable database must not be entered directly into or provided to an HMIS.

Alabama Balance of State Continuum of Care (AL-507) Expectations

- Maintain active membership in the Alabama Balance of State Continuum of Care (AL-507).
- Participate in Coordinated Entry activities and referrals.
- Participate in HMIS or a comparable database, as applicable.
- Attend CoC meetings, trainings, and planning activities.
- Participate in Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) activities, as requested.
- Respond to CoC requests for information necessary for system planning, reporting, and performance evaluation.
- Coordinate services with other homeless assistance providers to promote an effective community-wide response to homelessness.

Purpose of This Document

The Alabama Balance of State Continuum of Care (AL-507) provides this document as a reference to assist ESG applicants, recipients, and subrecipients in understanding the regulatory relationship between the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program and the Continuum of Care. The requirements summarized herein are derived from applicable HUD regulations and are intended to support compliance, coordination, and effective service delivery to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Disclaimer

This document is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to replace applicable federal statutes, regulations, notices, or guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In the event of a conflict, HUD regulations and guidance shall govern.

Regulatory References

- 24 CFR §576.400 – Area-Wide Systems Coordination
- 24 CFR §576.107 – HMIS
- 24 CFR §578.7(a)(8) – Coordinated Entry Responsibilities of the Continuum of Care
- 24 CFR Part 576 – Emergency Solutions Grants Program