**North Carolina Emergency Solutions Grants Program**  
**FY 2019-2020 Regional Application Review Tool**Funding for the 2020 Program Year (January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| LPA: |  |
| Lead Agency Name: |  |
| Reviewer Name: |  |
| Flash Drive Correct? | Yes  No |

## Comments, Recommendations, or Requirements:

Please note special considerations found below:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## Regional Application Required Documents

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TAB** | **Document** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| **1** | Signed, completed Regional Application (Word document) | **** | **** | **** |
| **2** | Fiscal Sponsor application (if applicable) | **** | **** | **** |
| **3** | Regional Budget Worksheet (Excel spreadsheet) | **** | **** | **** |
| **4** | CoC Policies (in order): | **** | **** | **** |
| * Written Standards, including appendix A as a cover page | **** | **** | **** |
| * Coordinated Entry, including appendix B as a cover page | **** | **** | **** |
| * Most recent annual evaluation of coordinated entry process (findings & outcomes) | **** | **** | **** |
| * Violence Against Women Act Policies, (Emergency Transfer Plan) including appendix C as a cover page | **** | **** | **** |
| * Nondiscrimination Policy | **** | **** | **** |
| **5** | Public notices to solicit ESG project applications | **** | **** | **** |
| **6** | Materials used to evaluate ESG project applications | **** | **** | **** |
| **7** | Funding notifications to project applicants | **** | **** | **** |
| **8** | If applicable, any appeals received and outcome of appeal | **** | **** | **** |

## Budget Review

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Total | Emergency Services | Housing Stability |
| Application Amount |  |  |  |
| Remaining |  | N/A | N/A |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Emergency Services Request within 60% Maximum | YES | NO |
| Housing Stability Request within 40% Minimum | YES | NO |

# Application & Selection Process

## Selection Committee

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| --- | --- |
| Did the LPA provide a list of selection committee members and their affiliation? | **YES  NO** |
| **\*If yes to any of the questions below, the application requires immediate review by the ESG Office.** | |
| Are there any agencies on the selection committee that are applying for money? | **YES  NO** |
| Are there any agencies on the selection committee related to an applicant staff or board member? | **YES  NO** |
| Do any of these members have any other shared financial interest with an applicant? | **YES  NO** |
| Does the LPA have an established Selection Committee Code of Conduct?  \*If yes, special consideration “must attach and send to ESG Office”  \*If no, special consideration “must create one and send to HUD and CC ESG Office” | **YES  NO** |

# APPENDIX A: WRITTEN STANDARDS COVER PAGE

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| --- | --- |
| **ALL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS** | **Yes / No** |
| Standards include the area of service where assistance shall be offered. |  |
| Standards include all type(s) of assistance that will be offered through the ESG program. |  |
| Standards summarize the procedure in place that defines how program participants will be evaluated for eligibility of assistance under the ESG program. (Note: DV shelters must follow the requirements of the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act which prohibits agencies from making its shelter or housing conditional on the participant’s acceptance of service) |  |
| Standards include procedures describing the coordination (coordinated entry) emergency shelter providers, essential services providers, homelessness prevention, and rapid re-housing assistance providers, other homeless assistance providers, and mainstream service and housing providers. |  |
| Standards include a list of available programs that program participants will be referred, including all programs reflected in 576.400 (b) and (c) such as Shelter + Care, VASH Voucher, Section 8, Emergency Food and Shelter program, etc. if available to program participants in the agency’s area of service. |  |
| Standards describe the formal termination process established by the agency that recognizes the rights of individuals affected. The agency must exercise judgment and examine all extenuating circumstances in determining when violations warrant termination so that a program participant’s assistance is terminated only in the most severe cases. |  |
| Standards describe the program participant’s formal grievance process. Included shall be the right for the participant to contact the agency’s Director, the Housing Division or HUD. |  |
| Standards include summaries regarding the requirement that clients served and activities provided with ESG funds will be entered into HMIS (or comparable database if a DV shelter), the timeframe for data to be entered, and the process for ensuring confidentiality of client records. |  |
| Standards include steps used to ensure clients receiving ESG assistance are provided all applicable HMIS releases, forms, client complaint process, etc. as required by HMIS regulations. |  |
| **STREET OUTREACH AND EMERGENCY SHELTER REQUIREMENTS** | |
| Standards include a summary of how agency staff will target and provide services related to street outreach. |  |
| Standards include steps for admission, diversion, referral, and discharge by emergency shelters assisted under ESG, including standards regarding length of stay limits, if any, and safeguards to meet the safety and shelter needs of special populations, such as victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, etc. |  |
| Standards include steps for admission, diversion, referral and discharge by emergency shelters assisted under ESG for individuals and families who have the highest barriers to housing and are likely to be homeless the longest. |  |
| Standards include assessing, prioritizing, and reassessing individuals and families’ needs for essential services related to emergency shelter. |  |
| **HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING REQUIREMENTS** | |
| Standards shall include definitions of who is considered to be homeless and at-risk of homelessness, as defined in 576.2. |  |
| Standards include a process for determining and prioritizing which eligible families and individuals will receive homeless prevention or rapid re-housing assistance. |  |
| Standards include standards for determining what percentage or amount of rent and utilities costs each program participant must pay while receiving homelessness prevention or rapid re- housing assistance. |  |
| Standards include process for evaluating and documenting income eligibility since program participant’s income must be below 30% of area median income as established by HUD for the area in which the participant lives when entering the program. Agencies must follow guidelines found under 24 CFR 5.609 when calculating income. |  |
| Standards include the steps to determine the eligibility of rental assistance, including steps to determine that rent + utilities do not exceed Fair Market Rents for the area of service. |  |
| Standards include how agency staff will document FMR and rent reasonableness standards, lead based paint inspections, and housing inspections. Included shall be procedures to verify and document the age of the units built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. |  |
| Standards include steps for determining how long a program participant will be provided rental assistance and whether or not (and how) the amount of that assistance will be adjusted over time, if applicable. |  |
| Standards include steps for determining the type, amount, and duration of housing stabilization and/or relocation services to provide to a program participant, including the limits, if any, on the homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing assistance that each program participant may receive, such as the maximum amount of assistance, the maximum number of months the program participant receives assistance, or the maximum number of times the program participant may receive assistance. |  |
| Standards that includes the requirements of program participants to meet with a case manager not less than once per month to assist the program participant in ensuring long-term housing stability (and be documented in client case file and HMIS). Included shall be the agency’s plan to assist the program participant to retain permanent housing after the ESG assistance ends, taking into account all relevant considerations such as the program participant’s current or expected income and expenses, other public or private assistance for with the program participant will be eligible and likely to receive, and the relative affordability of available housing in the area. (Note DV shelters must follow the requirements of the Violence Against Women Act or the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act which prohibits agencies from making its shelter or housing conditional on the participants acceptance of service.) |  |
| Standards include requirements that clients will be re-evaluated for program eligibility and the types and amounts of assistance the program participant needs. This re-evaluation process shall be conducted not less than once every 3 months for program participants receiving homelessness prevention assistance and not less than once annually for program participants receiving rapid re-housing assistance. Income limits shall not exceed 30% of AMI; the participants still lack the resources and support networks necessary to retain housing. |  |
| Standards shall include any requirements the agency may have regarding the requirement of the program participant to notify the agency of any change in income, stability, support circumstances that would affect the program participant’s need for assistance under the ESG program. If applicable, when notified of the relevant change, the agency shall include steps to re-evaluate the program participant’s eligibility and amount and types of assistance the program participant needs. |  |
| If the program participant receives rental assistance or housing relocation and stabilization services, the Standards shall include the formal process for terminating a program participant that includes: 1) Written notice to the program participant containing a clear statement of the reasons for termination; 2) a review of the decision, in which the participant is given the opportunity to present written or oral objections before a person other than the person who made or approved the termination decision; and 3) prompt written notice of the final decision to the program participant. Included shall be language stating that termination does not bar the program participant from receiving assistance at a later date if the issue that caused the termination is resolved. |  |

# APPENDIX B COORDINATED ENTRY POLICY COVER PAGE

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| **COORDINATED ENTRY POLICY REQUIREMENTS** | **Yes / No** |
| CES covers the entire geographic area claimed by the CoC. |  |
| CES is easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services. |  |
| CES is well-advertised. |  |
| CES includes a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool(s). |  |
| CES includes a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool(s). |  |
| CES provides an initial, comprehensive assessment of individuals and families for housing and services. |  |
| CES includes a specific policy to guide the operation of the centralized or coordinated assessment system to address the needs of individuals and families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, Domestic Violence / Victim Service Provider, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, but who are seeking shelter or services from non-victim specific providers. |  |

# APPENDIX C VAWA EMERGENCY TRANSFER PLAN COVER PAGE

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| **EMERGENCY TRANSFER PLAN REQUIREMENTS** | **Yes / No** |
| Definition of Internal Emergency Transfer |  |
| Definition of External Emergency Transfer |  |
| Definition of Safe Unit |  |
| A tenant receiving rental assistance through, or residing in a unit subsidized under, a covered housing program who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking qualifies for an emergency transfer if:   1. The tenant expressly requests the transfer; and 2. The tenant reasonably believes there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant remains within the same dwelling unit that the tenant is currently occupying; or 3. In the case of a tenant who is a victim of sexual assault, either the tenant reasonably believes there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant remains within the same dwelling unit that the tenant is currently occupying, or the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the date of the request for transfer. |  |
| The plan must detail the measure of any priority given to tenants who qualify for an emergency transfer under VAWA in relation to other categories of tenants seeking transfers and individuals seeking placement on waiting lists.   1. Tenant Selection Plans (TSPs) should be amended to include any VAWA preference (this does not require HUD approval). |  |
| The plan must incorporate strict confidentiality measures to ensure that the housing provider does not disclose the location of the dwelling unit of the tenant to a person who committed or threatened to commit an act of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the tenant. |  |
| The plan must allow a tenant to make an internal emergency transfer under VAWA when a safe unit is immediately available.  The plan should define the term “immediately available.” For example, “a vacant unit, ready for move-in with a reasonable period of time.”   1. Include time frames, possible internal transfer locations, and priority status relative to other tenants seeking an internal transfer. |  |
| The plan must describe policies for assisting a tenant in making an internal emergency transfer under VAWA when a safe unit is not immediately available, and these policies must ensure that requests for internal emergency transfers receive, at a minimum, any applicable additional priority that housing providers may already provide to other types of emergency transfer requests (e.g., transfers based on disability). |  |
| The plan must describe reasonable efforts the housing provider will take to assist a tenant who wishes to make an external emergency transfer when a safe unit is not immediately available. The plan must include policies for assisting a tenant who is seeking an external emergency transfer under VAWA out of the housing provider’s program or project, and a tenant who is seeking an external emergency transfer under VAWA into the housing provider’s program or project. These policies may include:   1. Arrangements, including memoranda of understanding, with other housing providers to facilitate moves (such documents should be attached to the plan); and 2. Outreach activities to organizations that assist or provide resources to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. |  |
| Nothing may preclude a tenant from seeking an internal emergency transfer and an external emergency transfer concurrently if a safe unit is not immediately available. It is recommended that this policy be clearly stated in the plan. |  |
| The plan should state that a request does not guarantee continued assistance or an external transfer to other HUD housing. |  |
| Where applicable, the plan must describe policies for a tenant who has tenant-based rental assistance (e.g., voucher) and who meets the requirements of #1 above to move quickly with that assistance.  Housing providers should coordinate with local providers of the tenant-based assistance (e.g., local PHA). |  |
| The plan may require documentation from a tenant seeking an emergency transfer, provided that:   1. The tenant’s submission of a written request to the housing provider, where the tenant certifies that they meet the eligibility requirements to request a VAWA transfer, shall be sufficient documentation of the requirements necessary to request an emergency transfer; 2. The housing provider may, at its discretion, ask an individual seeking an emergency transfer to document the occurrence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, in accordance with 24 CFR §5.2007, for which the individual is seeking the emergency transfer, if the individual has not already provided documentation of that occurrence; and 3. No other documentation is required to qualify the tenant for an emergency transfer. |  |
| The housing provider must make its emergency transfer plan available upon request and, when feasible, must make the plan publicly available. |  |
| The housing provider must keep a record of all emergency transfers requested under its plan, and the outcomes of such requests, and retain these records for a period of three years, or for a time period as specified in program regulations. Requests and outcomes of such requests must be reported to HUD annually. |  |

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