

**Emergency Solutions Grants Program and Homeless Definition  
Regulations Posted  
November 15<sup>th</sup> 2011  
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The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), enacted into law on May 20, 2009, revises the Emergency Shelter Grants program and renames this program the Emergency Solutions Grants program.

- HUD has posted the *interim* regulation for the new Emergency Solutions Grants program and the corresponding amendments to the Consolidated Plan regulations to the [HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange website](#). HUD expects that the regulations will be published in the Federal Register in the coming week. The interim regulations **will be effective 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register**.
- HUD has also posted the second allocation amounts for the FY2011 ESG funds. Go to [HUD's web site](#) or [the HRE](#) for your community's allocation.
- In order to implement the ESG program, recipients and subrecipients will need to review and implement the new final [Homeless Definition regulation](#), also posted on the HRE today.
- HUD will be conducting training on the interim and final rules released today in the coming weeks. Please see the HRE for a schedule of upcoming training.

**Background:**

- The Emergency Solutions Grants program (ESG) builds upon the existing Emergency Shelter Grants program, but includes new activities in order to emphasize assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. To reflect this new emphasis, the ESG program expands the homelessness prevention component of the Emergency Shelter Grants program and adds a new rapid re-housing assistance component.
- In developing ESG, HUD relied on its experience with its administration, and that of HUD's grantees, of the HPRP program. HPRP was the first HUD program to significantly fund homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance; therefore, HUD has drawn from its recent program experience with HPRP (a temporary program) to establish the regulations for the permanent ESG program.

- The final rule for the Definition of Homelessness reflects changes to the proposed rule based on the public comments received. A detailed list of those comments and HUD's response is included in the preamble to the final regulation.

**Purpose:**

- HUD is publishing the ESG interim regulation prior to the final rule in order to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed policies in the regulation.
- The objectives of the interim rule are to provide greater elaboration on existing requirements, to build from HUD's experience in developing and administering the previous Emergency Shelter Grants program and HPRP, and to align the ESG program with the new Continuum of Care and Rural Housing Stability programs as well as with the requirements of other formula and rental assistance programs.

**Public Comment Period:**

- Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding the ESG rule for up to 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. Comments may be submitted to HUD either by mail or electronic submission at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). For more information about submitting a comment, see page 2 of ESG Interim rule document.

**Questions?**

- HUD has also created a new section of the HUD Virtual Help Desk, at [www.hudhre.info](http://www.hudhre.info), for questions about the new regulations. HUD has taken great care to anticipate questions and include as much detail in the regulations as possible. Therefore, **please make sure that you read the regulation completely before submitting a question**, as this will cut down on the duplicative questions and responses and increase the response time for questions that were not already answered in the regulation.
- HUD is also preparing a comprehensive library of guidance documents to assist recipients and subrecipients in administering ESG and the new definition of homelessness. HUD appreciates your patience as these are being completed—many of your questions will be answered once these documents are published.