

Substantial Amendment to FY 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH)

Summary of the proposed changes

Orange County, FL has submitted a substantial amendment to its FY 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan to incorporate Emergency Solutions Grant – Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (ESG-RUSH) allocation of funds. RUSH is a rapid response program to address homelessness by filling in federal assistance gaps in communities hit by disasters. Changes to the following sections of the Action Plan document were made as part of this amendment process.

AP-05 Executive Summary (note: new language)

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

On January 10, 2025, HUD made a special allocation of ESG funds to address the needs of homeless individuals and families, or individuals and families at risk of homelessness in areas affected by major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. These funds must benefit people whose needs are not otherwise served or met by existing Federal disaster relief programs, including the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program under such Act. This special allocation of “Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing” (RUSH) funding is in response to the President’s major disaster declarations for Hurricane Helene (DR-4828-FL) and Hurricane Milton (DR-4834-FL).

Eligible activities under RUSH funding include those similar to the activities of the ESG program, and they address the goals and priorities identified in the 2022-2026 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, to include the goal of eradicating and preventing homelessness.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

To expedite the awarding of ESG-RUSH funds and rapidly provide homeless assistance, HUD has waived consultation and citizen participation requirements for this allocation. To access this funding, Orange County must submit an amendment to the FY 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan to HUD no later than February 9, 2025. The County posted a public notice regarding the proposed use of ESG-RUSH funds on its website. Such publication satisfies the requirements described in the ESG-RUSH Federal Register Notice published July 18, 2024, and Orange County’s ESG-RUSH funding allocation letter sent to Mayor Jerry L. Demings on January 10, 2025, by the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, which requires the County to publish how it will use its ESG-RUSH allocation, at a minimum, on the Internet at the appropriate government website or through electronic media.

AP-12 Participation (note: new language)

Citizen Participation Outreach (Table)

Sort of Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL

7	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/Broad Community	A public notice regarding the ESG-RUSH allocation and the proposed use of funds was posted on the Housing and Community Development Division website.	No comments were received on the proposed use of funds.	Not applicable	https://www.ocfl.net/NeighborsHousing/CommunityDevelopment.aspx
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AP-15 – Expected Resources (note: new language)

Introduction:

On January 10, 2025, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made a special allocation of **\$512,694** in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds to Orange County, FL to address the needs of homeless individuals and families, or individuals and families at risk of homelessness in areas affected by major disasters. This special allocation of RUSH funding is in response to the President’s major disaster declarations for Hurricane Helene (DR-4828-FL) and Hurricane Milton (DR-4834-FL).

It is anticipated that 100% of ESG-RUSH funding will be used for eligible services. More specifically, 7.5% of the allocation will be used for administration activities, and the remaining 92.5% of the allocation will be used for ESG-RUSH eligible activities, to include rapid re-housing or homelessness prevention; housing relocation and stabilization services; financial assistance for move-in costs; supportive services for people currently experiencing homelessness; HMIS, and street outreach services. Funds will be used for approved services to address the housing and service needs of people experiencing homelessness, which were exacerbated by recent disasters.

Sources of Funds	Source	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available	Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan	Narrative Description
ESG-RUSH	public-federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	\$512,694	\$0	ESG-RUSH funds are a special allocation of funds to provide a rapid response to address homelessness and benefit people whose needs are not otherwise served or met by existing Federal disaster relief programs.

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied.

No match is required for the ESG-RUSH funding.

AP-35 Projects (note: new language is shown as underline)

Project Summary Information (Table)

11	Project Name	2024 Emergency Solutions Grant <u>and ESG-RUSH</u>
	Target Area	County-wide
	Goals Supported	Work in collaboration with local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and industry partners to eradicate and prevent homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Services Program Administration
	Funding	ESG: \$645,988 <u>ESG-RUSH: \$512,694</u>
	Description	In FY 2024-2025, Orange County will receive \$645,988 in Emergency Solutions Grant funds (ESG) to support activities aimed at preventing and eliminating homelessness. A portion of the funds will be used to support ESG administration and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) platform. <u>In January 2025, HUD made a special allocation of \$512,694 in ESG funds to address the needs to homeless individuals and families, or individuals and families at risk of homelessness in areas affected by major disasters (Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton).</u>
	Target Date	9/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1,885 very low, low-income and homeless individuals and families are expected to benefit from the ESG-funded activities in FY 2024-2025. <u>The number of individuals and/or households expected to be served with ESG-RUSH funds is to be determined.</u>
	Location Description	Location of projects is within Orange County boundaries.
	Planned Activities	The planned activities under the Emergency Solutions Grant are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter operations and Street Outreach – Orange County will provide \$342,000 of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) allocation for operations and \$45,500 for street outreach. This funding will be distributed among five (5) agencies: Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, Inc. will receive \$133,000 to support shelter operation expenses at two facilities serving the homeless; \$53,000 for Family Promise of Greater Orlando, Inc. to support operational expenses and essential services (case management) at the shelter facilities for homeless families; Harbor House of Central Florida, Inc. will be funded in the amount of \$83,000

to assist with operating costs of the shelter facility for victims of domestic violence and their children; The Salvation Army will receive \$73,000 to support operational expenses for an emergency shelter program at two facilities; and Covenant House Florida, Inc. will receive \$45,500 to cover personnel expenses and transportation services for their street outreach services for youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness.

- **Homelessness prevention services** – Orange County will allocate \$198,362 of ESG Funds towards homelessness prevention services. The Christian Service Center of Central Florida, Inc. will receive \$98,362 to cover personnel expenses and rental and financial assistance activities and Family Promise of Greater Orlando, Inc. will receive \$100,000 to provide homelessness prevention services, including financial assistance and case management, to eligible households who are at risk of becoming homeless.
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** – A total of \$20,000 will be set aside for HMIS-related expenditures, to include the cost of licenses and technical support for ESG-funded agencies, as well as CAPER data collection and reporting.
- **ESG Administration** – A total of \$40,126, or approximately 6% of the total ESG allocation for FY 2024-2025, will be used for administration, to include review of reimbursement requests, monitoring of ESG-funded agencies, and provision of technical assistance.
- **ESG-RUSH** – It is anticipated that 100% of the ESG-RUSH funding will be used for eligible services (except 7.5% for admin activities).

Orange County intends to solicit applications from qualified non-profit organizations to award funds for eligible ESG-RUSH activities. Projects/activities will be selected through a competitive Request for Applications process.