



## **Iowa Statewide Emergency Solutions Grant**

### **2017 Calendar Year Draft Competition Plan**

#### **Public Comments Invited**

#### **Comments Invited:**

On April 15, 2016, the Iowa Finance Authority issued proposed key elements of the upcoming competition. These are outlined in this document. **The Authority is inviting stakeholder comments through Friday, May 6, 2016.** Comments may be submitted by email to [amber.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:amber.lewis@iowa.gov), or during a public hearing from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at the Iowa Finance Authority, 2015 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50312. The Iowa Finance Authority considers all comments in the final drafting of application materials.

#### **Background:**

The Iowa Finance Authority is preparing to open the competition for the Iowa Statewide Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), for the 2017 Calendar Year. Information about the Iowa ESG program can be found here: <http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/Public/Pages/PC83LN13>. Information about the federal ESG program, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), can be found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/esg/>.

The 2017 ESG competition will follow much of the same basic structure as the 2016 competition. Many application items are likely to be similar. This document contains many of the items that the Iowa Finance Authority considers most important, especially those that represent changes from last year. However, all aspects of the competition are open for comment. Interested parties may review the Draft 2017 ESG Application for additional items for comment. The Draft 2017 ESG Application is available on this page, under the section for the 2017 ESG Program:

<http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/Home/DocumentSubCategory/49>.

#### **2017 Application Training Webinar:**

An application training webinar is scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. Slides may be made available afterward for later viewing. Registration is available here:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1675156916250596612>.

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#### **Funding Available:**

Projected funds available for subgrantees for calendar year 2017 are approximately \$2.4 million.

### **Scoring:**

Recent competitions proposed selected items for “bonus” points, above 100 “regular” points. The intent was to call out certain items as particular priorities of each competition. The Draft 2017 Competition Plan has a simpler structure; it eliminates the bonus scoring and scores all items within a total of 100 points. The priority items that were previously called out as bonus items are instead included elsewhere in the application, with some slight updates (for example, the previous two bonus items that focused on veterans and families with children/youth, respectively, are instead proposed as one combined question focused on the four priorities of the federal *Opening Doors* plan, in which veterans and families with children/youth represent two of the plan’s four priorities).

### **Rapid Rehousing Funding Priority:**

The Iowa Finance Authority proposes to prioritize \$1,000,000 for Rapid Rehousing, out of the total ESG funds available. This is consistent with the 2016 competition plan. The priority is in line with HUD’s focus on Rapid Rehousing; for example, in this 2014 *SNAPS In Focus* message:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/news/snaps-in-focus-rapid-re-housing-as-a-model-and-best-practice/>.

Applications for Rapid Rehousing would still have to meet a minimum threshold for funding, and the final funding amount may be lower or higher than \$1,000,000, depending on the quality and number of applications received.

### **Funding Limit Per Agency and Per Category of Assistance:**

The 2016 ESG competition placed a maximum of \$150,000 total per agency. It further placed a limit of \$100,000 on any single category of assistance (Street Outreach, Shelter, Rapid Rehousing, or Homelessness Prevention). These limits are proposed to remain in place for 2017.

### **Data Collection and Reporting Requirements:**

It is a HUD requirement that all funded ESG agencies collect and submit client data through a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), with this exception: Agencies that are primarily designed to serve victims of domestic violence (DV) are prohibited from entering data into an HMIS, and must submit data instead through a comparable database that meets all federal standards for such systems. In Iowa, the approved HMIS provider is the Institute for Community Alliances, and the system currently in use is ServicePoint. Beginning in 2015, DV agencies had the option of using a non-HMIS implementation of the ServicePoint system, also provided through the Institute for Community Alliances.

This competition proposes that DV agencies funded through ESG for 2017 will be required to continue to use the ServicePoint system to report and submit client data.

### **Selected New Questions:**

Each year we eliminate some questions for various reasons. Sometimes we find certain questions were confusing or interpreted differently by different agencies, sometimes questions don’t lead to scoring

that is helpful in differentiating applicants from one another, and sometimes we find new priorities that take the place of older questions. A few questions were eliminated from last year's application, and some new questions proposed, such as those below.

- Program Design: There are some new questions about an agency's reporting of bed availability on the annual Housing Inventory Chart.
  - Experience and Capacity section, Question 8: A question about an agency's efforts toward continuous quality improvement, through use of the Iowa Quality Standards or other means.
  - Community Partnerships and Need section: Some new questions about local/regional community planning groups.
  - Performance: Question 5, focused on an agency's participation in the annual Point-in-Time and Housing Inventory Count data collection efforts.
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