



## **Notice of Substantial Amendment to 2020 One Year Action Plan for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) CARES Act Funds**

### **Notice**

Pierce County Human Services is notifying the public of a substantial amendment to the Human Services 2020 One Year Action Plan for the ESG-CV program funds provided under the CARES Act. This notice went public on May 26, 2022.

### **About the 2020 One Year Action Plan**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires Human Services to submit a One-Year Action Plan detailing the department's 2020 allocations of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). These funds assist the homeless population and low-income people, households, and communities throughout unincorporated Pierce County, as well as the Pierce County Consortium, which consists of 19 cities and towns. This is Substantial Amendment #5 to the 2020 One Year Action Plan.

### **Substantial Amendment #5 to the 2020 One Year Action Plan**

The ESG-CV funds are to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts created by COVID-19.

Pierce County is adopting the waiver flexibilities made available through Notice CPD-21-05. Notice CPD-21-05 can be found at:

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/2021-05cpdn.pdf> - see pages 3-5. Specifically, HUD is establishing alternative requirements and waiving section 415(a)(4) and (5) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and 24 CFR 576.104 to the extent necessary to provide that: a. In addition to individuals and families who meet the existing requirements in 24 CFR 576.104, a recipient may expand the scope of eligible RRH beneficiaries to include individuals and families who meet ALL of the following criteria: i. Qualified as "homeless" as defined in 24 CFR 576.2 immediately before moving into their current housing; ii. Have been residing in housing with time-limited rental assistance provided under a homeless assistance program (which means assistance limited to or reserved, either federally or locally, for people who are "homeless" as defined in 24 CFR 576.2) other than the ESG program (e.g., time-limited rental assistance that was funded under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program or the Coronavirus Relief Fund and provided only to people who qualified as "homeless" as defined in 24 CFR 576.2); iii. Would not have any overlap in rental assistance between the non-ESG program and the ESG program, due to 4 exhaustion or expiration of the non-ESG assistance or program funds; iv. Would not have a gap of more than one month (or equivalent amount of days) between the end of the non[1]ESG rental assistance and the beginning of their ESG RRH rental assistance; and v. Do not have the resources or

support networks (beyond an eviction moratorium) (e.g., family, friends or other social networks) needed to retain their existing housing without ESG assistance; b. Recipients that expand the scope of RRH beneficiaries as provided above must amend their consolidated plans as provided by 24 CFR 91.505 and 576.200(b), except that the recipient is not required to comply with any consultation or citizen participation requirements (as provided by the CARES Act), provided that the recipient publishes its plan to include these newly eligible RRH beneficiaries, at a minimum, on the Internet at the appropriate Government web site or through other electronic media. c. If individual or family meets the new RRH criteria above but is already an ESG RRH program participant (because they have been receiving services under 24 CFR 576.105), the individual or family may be provided ESG-funded rental assistance without being treated as a new applicant or program participant for purposes of HUD's coordinated assessment, written standards, HMIS, initial evaluation, re-evaluation, housing stability plan, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements (24 CFR 576.400(d), (e), (f); 576.401(a), (b), (e)(1)(ii), and 576.500). However, with respect to any other individuals and families for which the recipient exercises the new flexibilities provided in this notice, the recipient must account for the new RRH beneficiaries by making corresponding changes as appropriate to the applicable written standards for administering RRH assistance (including beneficiary eligibility and prioritization criteria), HMIS, and procedures for centralized or coordinated assessment, initial evaluation, re-evaluation, and recordkeeping and reporting.

Additionally, for recipients who choose to serve individuals and families made eligible for RRH assistance in Section III.1 of this Notice, the requirements at 24 CFR 576.403(c) are waived and the ESG recipient or subrecipient can provide rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services without first inspecting the unit so long as: a. The recipient or subrecipient maintains documentation showing the prior rental assistance provider determined that the housing meets: i. The habitability standards established at 24 CFR 576.403(c); or ii. Housing Quality Standards (HQS) established at 24 CFR 982.401; or b. The recipient or subrecipient provides no more than 90 days of RRH assistance to the program participant; or c. The recipient or subrecipient conducts an inspection within the first 90 days and determines the housing meets the habitability standards established at 24 CFR 576.403(c) or the HQS established at 24 CFR 982.401.

**Notice is hereby given** that Pierce County Human Services is notifying the public of a substantial amendment to the 2020 One Year Action Plan for the ESG-CV program funds provided under the CARES Act on May 26, 2022. If you have any questions or want to provide written comments, please contact Anne Marie Edmunds, at [annemarie.edmunds@piercecountywa.gov](mailto:annemarie.edmunds@piercecountywa.gov) or (253) 798 – 4361. To request a translator, contact Stephanie Bray, Community Development Supervisor at [stephanie.bray@piercecountywa.gov](mailto:stephanie.bray@piercecountywa.gov), (253) 798-6917, (TDD/Voice (800) 833-6388).