



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

**2530 Arnold Drive, Suite 190**

**Martinez, CA 94553**

**Telephone: (925) 335-7200**

**FAX: (925) 335-7201**

---

**DATE:** December 12, 2011

**TO:** Family and Human Services Committee  
Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, Chairperson  
Supervisor Federal Glover, Vice Chairperson

**FROM:** Brenda Kain, ESG Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** Transition of Emergency Shelter Grant Program to Emergency Solutions  
Grant and Proposed Allocation of Additional Funds

---

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. **APPROVE** staff recommendation to allocate \$73,797 in additional funds from the Emergency Solutions Grant for FY 2011/12 to Shelter, Inc. to provide Rapid Rehousing services to Urban County clients and \$11,366 to the Department of Conservation and Development for administrative costs.
2. **DIRECT** staff to prepare a report on the Committee's actions to be considered by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on January 10, 2012.

**BACKGROUND**

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), enacted into law on May 20, 2009, consolidates three of the separate homeless assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act into a single grant program, and revises the Emergency Shelter Grants program and renames it as the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. The HEARTH Act also codifies into law the Continuum of Care planning process, a longstanding part of HUD's application process to assist homeless persons by providing greater coordination in responding to their needs.

This ruling revises the regulations for the Emergency Shelter Grants program by establishing the regulations for the Emergency Solutions Grants program, which replaces the Emergency Shelter

Grants program. The change in the program's name, from Emergency Shelter Grants to **Emergency Solutions Grants**, reflects the change in the program's focus from addressing the needs of homeless people in emergency or transitional shelters to assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. Consequently, the intent of the new ESG program is to build upon those services developed through the Homeless Prevention/Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) program that was funded as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The County received \$1,421,551 in funding for the HPRP program and contracted with Shelter, Inc. as the lead agency. Shelter, Inc. in turn contracted with several partner agencies countywide to ensure that services were provided throughout the Urban County. Under their direction the program has far exceeded the original goals for number of households served and it is anticipated that all funds will be expended well before the August, 2012, deadline. HUD has notified the County it is eligible to receive an additional **\$85,163** in ESG funding for the current fiscal year.

**Proposed Allocation of Additional ESG Funds:** The new ESG regulations limit the amount to be allocated to street outreach and emergency shelter activities to 60 percent of the grant amount or the amount allocated in FY 2010/11, whichever is greater. Because the County allocated its entire ESG grant this year for emergency shelter activities (see Exhibit 1), the additional ESG funding must be used for the new services outlined in the regulations - specifically homeless prevention and rapid rehousing activities.

Therefore, staff recommends \$73,797 be allocated to Shelter, Inc. to provide additional rapid rehousing services to **assist approximately 21 homeless households move into permanent housing**. In addition, staff recommends allocating \$11,366 to the Department of Conservation and Development to cover administrative costs.

In response to the new requirement for greater coordination among homeless assistance providers, staff recommendations were presented to the Contra Costa Interjurisdictional Council on Homelessness ("CCICH") on December 9, 2011. CCICH is charged with providing a forum for communication and coordination about the overall implementation of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness and providing advice and input on the operations of homeless services. Staff will provide an oral update on the action taken by CCICH.

Attachment: FY 2011/12 ESG Project Spreadsheet

cc: Catherine Kutsuris, Director, Department of Conservation and Development  
Robert Calkins, CDBG Program Manager