

CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY SHELTER AND HOUSING PROGRAM

The California Department of Housing and Community Development released a request for proposals for the California Emergency Shelter and Housing program on April 8, 2019. The HPSC must designate an administrative entity to apply for and distribute these funds (Marin HHS was chosen as the administrative entity last year). Input from the HPSC will guide the process, starting with the 4/25 Community Prioritization meeting. The following is guidance for agencies interested in applying for these funds.

Applicants should read the original NOFA to ensure applications will meet state requirements. Do not depend solely on this summary.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

S.B. 2, passed in 2017, created a new source of funding for homelessness services and affordable housing to be administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). For the 2018 allocation, HCD combined this funding with unallocated state Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds and released a NOFA for the California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) program for \$53 million in one-time funding.¹ In 2019, the S.B. 2 funds were released alone, for a total of \$29 million. This year, Marin is eligible for a total of \$289,700.

The NOFA is available here: <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/cesh/docs/2019-CESH-NOFA-Amended.pdf>

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

CESH funds may be used for the following activities to assist people experiencing/at-risk of homelessness:

- Rental assistance, housing relocation, and stabilization services
- Flexible housing subsidy funds to support temporary or ongoing rental assistance, bridge subsidies to property owners and vacancy payments, project-based rent or operating reserves
- Operating subsidies for affordable permanent housing units for those experiencing homelessness
- Short-term, emergency housing interventions (up to 40 percent of any funds), such as: navigation centers, street outreach, shelter diversion, and systems support
- Strengthening Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)²
- Developing or updating a coordinated entry system (CES) to meet HUD requirements²
- Developing a community homelessness plan, if no plan currently exists²

Restrictions:

- CESH cannot be used for capital costs.
- A maximum of 40% (\$115,880) may be used for emergency housing interventions

Other requirements include:

- Up to 5 percent of funds may be used for administrative costs by the CoC or their subgrantees (this does not include staff costs directly related to carrying out eligible activities).
- Funds may be used for planning to address systems barriers and promote coordinated responses to homelessness, which would not fall under the 5 percent administrative costs cap.

¹ CESH Program NOFA: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/cesh/docs/NOFA_CESH.pdf

² The County does not intend to apply for funding for any of these purposes.

- Funding may be used as match for the federal ESG or CoC programs.

APPLYING FOR FUNDING

Applicants should prepare a brief summary of the following, which are part of the application to the state:

- A description of the activities they plan to fund and estimate amounts for each activity
- Identified goals or performance measures that include:
 - The number of homeless people the project expects to serve,
 - The number of unsheltered homeless people the project expects to serve and average length of homelessness among participants,
 - The number of participants exiting the funded program(s) into permanent housing, and
 - The number of participants exiting funded program(s) to homelessness.

Applicants should also be prepared to explain how their project aligns with the goals of the HPSC. At the Community Priority Meeting we will select the activities to be funded and the amount of money (e.g. "\$200,000 for emergency shelter" or "\$100,000 for outreach"), but the administrative entity will select the project(s) and applicant(s) via RFP after the meeting.

PROPOSED TIMELINE

4/8: CESH NOFA released

4/25: Community Priorities Meeting

- Decide which activities will be funded under CESH; provider and projects will be determined by RFP

4/29: Call for nominations for Administrative Entity

5/8: HPSC meeting (selection of Administrative Entity and approval of priorities)

6/28: State CESH deadline

TBD: RFP of CESH funds

Meeting announcements will go out on the HPSC listserv (send a blank email to marin-hpsc+subscribe@googlegroups.com to join) and will be posted at <https://www.marinhhs.org/boards/homeless-policy-committee>.