

Attachment A: Preamble, including required analysis, for proposed repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter A, General Policies and Procedures

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes the repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter A, General Policies and Procedures. The purpose of the proposed repeal is to eliminate an outdated rule while adopting a new updated rule under separate action.

The Department has analyzed this proposed rulemaking and the analysis is described below for each category of analysis performed.

a. GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.0221.

1. Mr. Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect, the proposed repeal does not create or eliminate a government program, but relates to the repeal, and simultaneous readoption making changes to an existing activity, General Policies and Procedures for the Department's Homelessness Programs.

2. The proposed repeal does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor is the proposed repeal significant enough to reduce workload to a degree that any existing employee positions are eliminated.

3. The proposed repeal does not require additional future legislative appropriations.

4. The proposed repeal does not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor in a decrease in fees paid to the Department.

5. The proposed repeal is not creating a new regulation, except that it is being replaced by a new rule simultaneously to provide for revisions.

6. The proposed action will repeal an existing regulation but is associated with a simultaneous readoption making changes to an existing activity, General Policies and Procedures for the Department's Homelessness Programs.

7. The proposed repeal will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.

8. The proposed repeal will not negatively or positively affect this state's economy.

b. ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL OR MICRO-BUSINESSES OR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2006.002.

The Department has evaluated this proposed repeal and determined that the proposed repeal will not create an economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities.

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed repeal does not contemplate or authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

d. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(6).

The Department has evaluated the proposed repeal as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect there would be no economic effect on local employment; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required to be prepared for the rule.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Mr. Wilkinson has determined that, for each year of the first five years the proposed repeal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the repealed section would be an updated and more germane rule. There will not be economic costs to individuals required to comply with the repealed section.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed repeal is in effect, enforcing or administering the repeal does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT The public comment period will be held January 30, 2026, to March 3, 2026, to receive input on the proposed repealed section. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Rosy Falcon, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941 or email homelessprograms@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin (Central) local time, MARCH 3, 2026.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The proposed repeal is made pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Except as described herein the proposed repealed sections affect no other code, article, or statute.

10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter A

- §7.1 Purpose and Goals**
- §7.2 Definitions**
- §7.3 HHSP and EH Construction Activities**
- §7.4 Subrecipient Contract**
- §7.5 Subrecipient Reporting**
- §7.6 Subrecipient Data Collection**
- §7.7 Subrecipient Contact Information**
- §7.8 Records Retention**
- §7.9 Contract Termination and Deobligation**
- §7.10 Inclusive Marketing**
- §7.11 Compliance Monitoring**
- §7.12 Waivers**

Attachment B: Preamble for proposed new 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter A, General Policies and Procedures

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes new 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter A, General Policies and Procedures. The purpose of the proposed new subchapter is to update the rule to include special allocations of funds and to further clarify program requirements.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.0045(b) does not apply to the new rule proposed for action because it was determined that no costs are associated with this action, and therefore no costs warrant being offset.

The Department has analyzed this proposed rulemaking and the analysis is described below for each category of analysis performed.

a. GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.0221.

Mr. Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for the first five years the proposed new rule would be in effect:

1. The proposed new rule does not create or eliminate a government program, but relates to the readoption of this rule which makes changes to an existing activity, General Policies and Procedures for the Department's Homelessness Programs.
2. The proposed new rule does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions,
nor are the rule changes significant enough to reduce workload to a degree that eliminates any existing employee positions.
3. The proposed new rule does not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The proposed new rule will not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor in a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The proposed new rule is not creating a new regulation, except that it is replacing a rule being repealed simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The proposed new rule will not limit or repeal an existing regulation, but can be considered to "expand" the existing regulations on this activity because the proposed new rule provides a regulatory framework for instances where the Department receives an additional allocation of funds for homelessness programs not contemplated by the current rule. However, this addition to the rule is necessary to ensure compliance with federal and state fund commitment deadlines.
7. The proposed new rule will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability; and
8. The proposed new rule will not negatively or positively affect the state's economy.

b. ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL OR MICRO-BUSINESSES OR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2006.002. The Department, in drafting this proposed new rule, has attempted to reduce any adverse economic effect on small or micro-business or rural communities while remaining consistent with the statutory requirements of Tex. Gov't Code, §2306. The Department has evaluated this new rule and determined that none of the adverse effect strategies outlined in Tex. Gov't Code §2006.002(b) are applicable.

The Department has determined that because this rule only impacts nonprofits and units of local government by outlining administrative requirements of existing programs, there will be no economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities.

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed new rule does not contemplate nor authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

d. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(6).

The Department has evaluated the new rule as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the new rule will be in effect the proposed new rule has no economic effect on local employment because this rule only outlines administrative requirements of existing programs; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required to be prepared for the new rule.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.022(a) states that this "impact statement must describe in detail the probable effect of the new rule on employment in each geographic region affected by this new rule..." Considering that these programs are offered in all areas of the state, there are no "probable" effects of the new rule on particular geographic regions.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Mr. Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for each year of the first five years the new rule is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the new rule will be an updated and more germane rule. There will not be any economic cost to any individuals required to comply with the new rule because the processes described by the rule have already been in place through the rule found at this section being repealed.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the new rule is in effect, enforcing or administering the new rule does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments because this rule only outlines administrative requirements of existing programs.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND INFORMATION RELATED TO COST, BENEFIT OR EFFECT. The Department requests comments on the rule and also requests information related to the cost, benefit, or effect of the proposed rule, including any applicable data, research, or analysis from any person required to comply with the proposed rule or any other interested person. The public comment period will be held January 30, 2026, to March 3, 2026, to receive input on the newly proposed rule. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Rosy Falcon, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941, by fax to (512) 475-0220, or email homelessprograms@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin (Central) local time, MARCH 3, 2026.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The new rule(s) is/are proposed pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Except as described herein the proposed new rules affect no other code, article, or statute.

Chapter 7 HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS

Subchapter A GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

§7.1 Purpose and Goals

(a) The rules established in this Chapter relate to Homelessness Programs, for which the General Provisions provided in this subchapter apply to all of the Homelessness Programs, unless otherwise noted. Additional program specific requirements are contained within each program subchapter.

(b) The Homelessness Programs administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the "Department") support the Department's statutorily assigned mission to address homelessness among Texans.

(c) The Department accomplishes this mission by acting as a conduit for state and federal funds directed for homelessness programs. Ensuring program compliance with the state and federal laws that govern these programs is another important part of the Department's mission. Oversight and program mandates ensure state and federal resources are expended in an efficient and effective manner.

(d) Unless otherwise noted herein or required by federal law or regulation, or state statute, all provisions of this chapter apply to any Application received for federal funds and any Contract of state funds on or after the effective date of this rule.

§7.2 Definitions

The words and terms in this chapter shall have the meanings described in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Other definitions may be found in Chapters 1 of this title, concerning Administration, Chapter 2 of this title, concerning Enforcement, or in federal or state law, including, but not limited to, 24 CFR Parts 91, 200, 576, 582, and 583, and UGMS or TXGMS, as applicable.

(1) Affiliate--An entity related to an Applicant that controls by contract or by operation of law the Applicant or has the power to control the Applicant or a third entity that controls, or has the power to control both the Applicant and the entity. Examples include but are not limited to entities submitting under a common application, or instrumentalities of a unit of government. This term also includes any entity that is required to be reported as a component entity under Generally Accepted Accounting Standards, is required to be part of the same Single Audit as the Applicant, is reported on the same IRS Form 990, or is using the same federally approved indirect cost rate.

(2) Allocation Formula--Mathematical relationship among factors, authorized by the Board, that determines, when applicable, how much funding is available in an area or region in Subchapters B, C, and D of this chapter, relating to Homelessness Programs.

(3) Applicant--A unit of local government, nonprofit corporation or other entity, as applicable, who has submitted to the Department an Application for Department funds or other assistance.

(4) Application--A request for a Contract award submitted by an Applicant to the Department, in a form prescribed by the Department, including any exhibits or other supporting material.

(5) At-risk of Homelessness--Defined by 24 CFR §576.2, except as otherwise defined by Contract, the income limits for Program Participants are determined by the Subrecipient but, at a minimum, do not exceed the moderate income level pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.152.

(6) CoC Lead Agency--CoC collaborative applicant in the HUD CoC Program per 24 CFR §578.3.

(7) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)--The codification of the general and permanent rules and regulations of the federal government as adopted and published in the Federal Register.

(8) Continuum of Care (CoC)--The group composed of representatives of relevant organizations, which generally includes nonprofit homeless providers; victim service providers; faith-based organizations; governments; businesses; advocates; public housing agencies; school districts; social service providers; mental health agencies; hospitals; universities; affordable housing developers; law enforcement; organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and formerly homeless persons that are organized to plan for and provide, as necessary, a system of outreach, engagement, and assessment; emergency shelter; rapid re-housing; transitional housing; permanent housing; and prevention strategies to address the various needs of homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness for a specific geographic area. HUD funds a CoC Program designed to assist sheltered and unsheltered homeless people by providing the housing and/or services needed to help individuals move into transitional and permanent housing, with the goal of long-term stability.

(9) Contract--The executed written agreement between the Department and a Subrecipient performing a program activity that describes performance requirements and responsibilities assigned by the document.

(10) Contract Close Out Period--The period between the final date of Contract Term and the final reporting deadline.

~~(1011)~~ Contract System--The electronic recordkeeping system established by the Department, as required by the program.

~~(1112)~~ Contract Term--Period of time identified in the Contract during which program activities may be conducted.

~~(1213)~~ Cost Reimbursement--A Contract sanction whereby reimbursement of costs incurred by the Subrecipient occurs only after the Department has reviewed all relevant documentation provided by the Subrecipient to support Expenditures. Reimbursement will only be approved by the Department where the documentation clearly supports the eligible use of funds.

~~(1314)~~ Declaration of Income Statement (DIS)--A Department-approved form used only when it is not possible for a Subrecipient to obtain third-party or firsthand verification of income, per 24 CFR §576.500(e)(4).

~~(1415)~~ Dwelling Unit--A residence that meets Habitability Standards that is not an emergency shelter, hotel, jail, institution, or similar temporary lodging. Transitional Housing is included in this definition unless the context clearly states otherwise. Common areas supporting the Dwelling Unit are also included in this definition.

~~(1516)~~ Elderly Person--

(A) For state funds, a person who is 60 years of age or older; and

(B) For ESG, a person who is 62 years of age or older.

(1617) Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)--A HUD-funded program which provides funds for services necessary to help persons that are at risk of homelessness or homeless quickly regain stability in permanent housing.

~~(17) Emergency Solutions Grants CARES (ESG CARES) -- A HUD-funded program which provides funds for services necessary to help persons that are at risk of homelessness or homeless quickly regain stability in permanent housing authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES).~~

(18) Ending Homelessness (EH) Fund--The voluntary-contribution state program established in Texas Transportation Code §502.415.

(19) ESG Interim Rule--The regulations with amendments promulgated at 24 CFR Part 576 as published by HUD for the ESG Program.

(20) Expenditure--An amount of money accounted for by a Subrecipient as spent.

(21) Finding--A Subrecipient's material failure to comply with rules, regulations, the terms of the Contract, or to provide services under each program to meet appropriate standards, goals, and other requirements established by the Department or funding source (including performance objectives). A Finding impacts the organization's ability to achieve the goals of the program and jeopardizes continued operations of the Subrecipient. Findings include the identification of an action or failure to act that results in disallowed costs.

(22) Head of Household--As defined in the most recent Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Dictionary issued by HUD.

(23) HMIS Data Dictionary--The Dictionary published by HUD which defines terms for the use of HMIS and comparable databases.

(24) HMIS Data Standards Manual--Manual and guidance published by HUD which documents the requirements for the programming and use of all HMIS and comparable databases.

(25) HMIS Lead Agency--The entity designated by the CoC to operate the CoC's HMIS on its behalf.

(26) HMIS-Comparable Database--Database established and operated by a victim service provider or legal service provider that is comparable to HMIS and collects Program Participant-level data over time.

(27) Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP)--The state-funded program established under Tex. Gov't Code §2306.2585.

(28) Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)--Information system designated by the CoC to comply with the HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards and used to collect

Program Participant-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at-risk of homelessness.

(29) Homeless or Homeless Individual--An individual as defined by 42 U.S.C. §§11371 - 11378 and 24 CFR §576.2. For state-funded programs, a homeless individual may have right of occupancy because of a signed lease, but still qualify as homeless if his or her primary nighttime residence is an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation.

(30) Homelessness Programs--Reference to programs that have the specific purpose of addressing homelessness administered by the Department, including ESG Program, ~~ESG CARES~~, HHSP, and EH Fund, and Special Allocation Programs.

(31) Homeless Subpopulations--Persons experiencing Homelessness who are part of the special population categories as defined by the most recent Point In Time Data Collection guidance issued by HUD.

(32) Household--A Household is a single individual or a group of persons who apply together for assistance and who live together in one Dwelling Unit, or, for persons who are not housed or in a shelter, who would live together in one Dwelling Unit if they were housed, or as defined in the most recent HMIS Data Dictionary issued by HUD.

(33) Households Served--A single individual or a group of persons who apply for Homelessness Program assistance, meets a Homelessness Program's eligibility requirements, receives a Homelessness Program's services, and whose data is entered into an HMIS or comparable database.

(34) Land Use Restriction Agreement (LURA)--An agreement, regardless of its title, between the Department and a property owner, including an emergency shelter, which is a binding covenant upon the property owner and successors in interest, that, when recorded, encumbers the property with respect to the requirements of the programs for which it receives funds.

(35) Match--A contribution to the ESG Program from a non-ESG source governed by 24 CFR §576.201.

(36) Monthly Expenditure Report (MER)--Information on Expenditures from Subrecipient to the Department.

(37) Monthly Performance Report (MPR)--Information on Program Participants and program activities from Subrecipient to the Department.

(38) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)--Notice of Funding Availability or announcement of funding published by the Department notifying the public of available funds for a Program with certain requirements.

(39) Outcome--A benefit or change achieved by a Program Participant served by the Department's Homeless Programs.

(40) Performance Target--Number of persons/Households to be served, outcomes to be reached, or construction/rehabilitation/conversion to be performed that the Subrecipient commits to accomplish during the Contract Term.

(41) Private Nonprofit Organization--An organization described in §501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") of 1986 and which is exempt from taxation under subtitle A of the Code, has an accounting system and a voluntary board, and practices nondiscrimination in the provision of assistance. This does not include a governmental organization such as a public housing authority or a housing finance agency.

(42) Program Participant--An individual or Household that is assisted by a Homelessness Program.

(43) Program Year--Contracts with funds from a specific federal allocation (ESG and ESG CARES) or year of a state biennium (HHSP).

(44) Project--A group of eligible activities identified in an Application or Contract to the Department, and designated in HMIS or HMIS-comparable database.

(45) Recertification--Required review of a Program Participant's eligibility determination for continuation of assistance.

(46) Service Area--The city(ies), county(ies) and/or place(s) identified in the Application (as applicable), and Contract that the Subrecipient will serve.

(47) Special Allocation--Funding made available to the Department outside of its allocation cycle, authorized through federal or state legislation or other governmental action. Special Allocations provide funds for eligible activities consistent with the authorizing statute or funding notices, and may include, but are not limited to, allocations for disaster recovery, public health emergencies, or other time-limited initiatives.

(48) Special Allocation Program--A Department administered program that utilizes funds from a Special Allocation to carry out eligible activities in accordance with the terms and conditions established by the authorizing statute, regulation, or funding notice.

~~(497)~~ State--The State of Texas or the Department, as indicated by context.

~~(4850)~~ Subcontract--A contract made between the Subrecipient and a purveyor of goods or services through a procurement relationship.

~~(4951)~~ Subcontractor--A person or an organization with whom the Subrecipient contracts to provide services.

~~(520)~~ Subgrant--An award of financial assistance in the form of money made under a grant by a Subrecipient to an eligible Subgrantee. The term includes financial assistance when provided by contractual legal agreement, but does not include procurement purchases.

(531) Subgrantee--The legal entity to which a Subgrant is awarded and which is accountable to the Subrecipient for the use of the funds provided.

(542) Subrecipient--An organization that receives federal or states funds passed through the Department to operate ESG and/or state funded Homelessness Programs.

(553) Texas Administrative Code (TAC)--A compilation of all state agency rules in Texas.

(564) Unit of General Purpose Local Government--A unit of government which has, among other responsibilities, the authority to assess and collect local taxes and to provide general governmental services.

(575) United States Code (U.S.C.)--A consolidation and codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

(586) United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)--Federal department that provides funding for ESG.

(597) Youth Headed Household--Household that includes unaccompanied youth 24 years of age and younger, parenting youth 24 years of age and younger and children of parenting youth 24 years of age and younger.

§7.3 HHSP and EH Construction Activities

(a) A Subrecipient of Homelessness Program funds that constructs or rehabilitates a building or Dwelling Unit, or converts a building(s) for use as a shelter with HHSP, EH Fund, or Special Allocation Programs may be required to enter into a LURA.

~~(b) No new construction, renovation (other than repairs), rehabilitation, or conversion of a shelter, or construction or rehabilitation of a Dwelling Unit may be performed using ESG funds that are not a Special Allocation must not be utilized for Renovation as defined in 24 CFR §576.102(a)(3).~~

~~(b)~~ Tex. Gov't Code §2306.185 requires certain multifamily rental developments to have, among other provisions, a 30-year LURA.

~~(c)~~ A Subrecipient that intends to expend funds for new construction, rehabilitation, or conversion must submit a copy of the activity budget inclusive of all sources and uses of funding, documents for a construction plan review, and identification of the entity and signature authorization of the individual (name and title) that will execute the LURA. These documents must be submitted no less than 90 calendar days prior to the end of the Contract Term under which funds for the activity are provided. The Department may elect to reconsider award amounts if financial resources other than those presented in the Application are subsequently committed to an activity.

~~(d)~~ A Subrecipient must request a final construction inspection within 30 calendar days of construction completion. The inspection will cover the Shelter and Housing Standards, National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate, 2012 International Residential Code (or municipality adopted later version), Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Construction Activities, and the

Accessibility Standards in Chapter 1, Subchapter B, as applicable for the Homelessness Program and activity.

§7.4 Subrecipient Contract

(a) Subject to prior Board approval, the Department and a Subrecipient shall enter into and execute a Contract for the disbursement of program funds. The Department, acting by and through its Executive Director or his/her designee, may authorize, execute, and deliver authorized modifications and/or amendments to the Contract, as allowed by state and federal laws and rules.

(b) Subrecipients of state funds may Subcontract for the delivery of Program Participant assistance without obtaining Department's prior approval, but must obtain the Department's written permission before entering into a Subgrant. Department ESG funds and ESG Match may not be Subgranted.

(c) The Subrecipient is responsible for ensuring that the performance rendered under all Subcontracts, Subgrants, and other agreements are rendered so as to comply with Homelessness Program requirements, as if such performance rendered were rendered by the Subrecipient. Department maintains the right to monitor and require the Subrecipient's full compliance with the terms of the Subrecipient Contract.

(d) A performance statement and budget are attachments to the Contract between the Subrecipient and the Department. Execution of the Contract enables the Subrecipient to access funds through the Department's Contract System.

(e) Amendments and Extensions to Contracts.

(1) Except for amendments that only move funds within budget categories, program staff will recommend denial of amendment requests if any of the following conditions exist:

(A) if the award for the Contract was competitively awarded and the amendment would materially change the scope of the Contract performance or affected the score;

(B) if the Subrecipient is delinquent in the submission of their Single Audit or their Single Audit Certification form required by §1.403 of this title (relating to Single Audit Requirements);

(C) for an amendment adding funds to the Contract, if the Subrecipient owes the Department disallowed amounts in excess of \$1,000 and a Department-approved repayment plan is not in place or has been violated;

(D) for an amendment adding funds (not applicable to amendments for extending time), if the Department has cited the Subrecipient for violations within §7.11 of this subchapter (related to Compliance Monitoring) and the corrective action period has expired without correction of the issue or a satisfactory plan for correction of the issue;

(E) the Contract has expired, except for requests submitted during the Contract Close Out Period to extend the Contract Close Out Period; or

(F) a member of the Subrecipient's board has been debarred and has not been removed.

(2) Except for amendments that only move funds within budget categories, program staff may recommend denial of amendment requests if any of the following conditions exist:

(A) the request for an amendment was received in writing less than 30 calendar days from the end of the Contract Term; or

(B) if the funds associated with the Contract will reach their federal or state expiration date within 45 calendar days of the request.

(3) Denial of an amendment may be subject to §1.7 of this title (relating to Appeals Process).

(4) The Executive Director may on appeal approve an amendment where the Single Audit Certification Form has not been submitted as reflected in paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection. In addition, the Executive Director may on appeal approve an amendment where the conditions in paragraph (2)(A) and paragraph (2)(B) of this subsection exist. The Subrecipient must demonstrate good cause for the amendment, and such an amendment must not cause the Department to miss a federal obligation or expenditure deadline, or a state expenditure deadline.

(5) Additional program specific requirements for amendments and extensions to Contracts are found in the program rules of this chapter, relating to Homelessness Programs.

(f) The Department reserves the right to request supporting Expenditure documentation at any time in reviewing an Expenditure report for approval. The Department will use full Cost Reimbursement method of payment whenever any of the following conditions exists:

(1) The Department determines that the Subrecipient has maintained cash balances in excess of need;

(2) The Department identifies significant deficiency in the cash controls or financial management system used by the Subrecipient; or

(3) The Subrecipient fails to comply with the reporting requirements in §7.5 (relating to Subrecipient Reporting) and §7.6 (relating to Subrecipient Data Collection) of this subchapter.

(g) Voluntary deobligation. The Subrecipient may fully relinquish funds in the form of a written request signed by the signatory, or successor thereto, of the Contract. The Subrecipient may partially relinquish funds under a Contract in the form of a written request from the signatory if the partial relinquishment

in performance measures and budget would not have impacted the award of the Contract. Voluntary relinquishment of a Contract does not limit a Subrecipient's ability to participate in future funding.

(h) Funds provided under a Contract may not be used for sectarian or explicitly religious activities such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization and must be for the benefit of persons regardless of religious affiliation.

§7.5 Subrecipient Reporting

(a) Subrecipient will be reimbursed for the amount of actual cash disbursements as reflected in the approved Monthly Expenditure Reports.

(b) Subrecipient must submit a Monthly Performance Report and a Monthly Expenditure Report through the Contract System not later than the last day of each month which reflects performance and expenditures conducted in the prior month.

(c) For performance reports, Program Participants that are assisted continuously as a Contract ends and a new Contract begins in the same program will count as new Program Participants for the new Contract. However, the start of a new Contract does not require new eligibility determination or documentation for Program Participants, except as required for Recertification.

(d) Subrecipient shall reconcile their Expenditures with their performance at least monthly before seeking a request for funds for the following month. If the Subrecipient is unable to reconcile on a month-to-month basis, the Subrecipient must provide, at the request of the Department, a written explanation for the variance and take appropriate measures to reconcile the subsequent month. It is the responsibility of a Subrecipient to ensure that it has documented the compliant use of all funds provided prior to receipt of additional funds, or if this cannot be done to address the repayment of such funds.

(e) Failure of a Subrecipient to provide reports as required under Department rules or the Contract may be sufficient reason for the Department to deobligate funds for which a Monthly Expenditure Report has not been submitted.

(f) If the Subrecipient fails to submit within 45 calendar days of its due date, any report or response required by this section and responses to monitoring reports, Department may, in its sole discretion, suspend payments, place the Subrecipient on Cost Reimbursement method of payment, and initiate proceedings to terminate any active Contract.

(g) Subrecipient must report on all measures in the Monthly Performance Report for demographics and Program Participant Services for which they are awarded.

(h) Subrecipient must submit information requested by the Department for annual or biannual reporting. The annual reporting may extend over multiple Contracts.

(1) ESG Subrecipients will submit information yearly as required for the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), including, but not limited to:

(A) HMIS exports as required per HUD;

(B) Narrative outcome results for emergency transfer requests received under VAWA; and

(C) Section 3 provision of the HUD Act of 1968, as required per HUD.

(2) Subrecipients of state funds will submit information for biennial reporting to the Texas Legislature, including, but not limited to:

(A) The successes and challenges of the program, including using state funding in ways that cannot be used by other funding sources; and

(B) How funds were used to leverage other funding sources to persons experiencing homelessness.

§7.6 Subrecipient Data Collection

(a) Subrecipient must ensure that data on all persons served and all activities assisted under Homelessness Programs is entered into the applicable HMIS or HMIS-comparable database for domestic violence or legal service providers in order to integrate data from all homeless assistance and homelessness prevention projects in a CoC.

(b) The Performance Targets shall be indicated in the Contract.

§7.7 Subrecipient Contact Information

(a) In accordance with §1.22 of this title (relating to Providing Contact Information to the Department), Subrecipient will notify the Department and provide contact information for staff that approve the Contract and submit/approve reports in the Contract System. A primary and secondary contact are required to be provided to the Department for submission and approval of reports. The notification will be sent to the Department by updating its Contract System access request information.

(b) If the organization is a nonprofit organization, contact information for the chair and vice-chair of the organization's governing board must be provided to the Department and shall include the:

(1) Board Member's name;

(2) Beginning and end dates of the member's term;

(3) Member's mailing address (which must be different from the organization's mailing address);

(4) Member's phone number (different from the organization's phone number); and

(5) Member's direct email address.

(c) Subrecipient will notify the Department and provide contact information for Subcontractors and Subgrantee within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the Subcontract or Subgrant. Contact information for the entities with which the Subrecipients' Subcontract or Subgrant must be provided to the Department, including the organization name, name and title of authorized person who entered into the Subgrant or Subcontract, phone number, e-mail address, and type of services provided.

(d) At the start of the Contract and within 30 calendar days of contact information changes, including entering into Subcontracts or Subgrants, Subrecipient will notify the Department of contact information used for the public to receive assistance through Homelessness Programs. The contact information for the public should include, but is not limited to, organization name, phone number to receive assistance, email to receive assistance, type of assistance offered, and Service Area in which the assistance is offered.

(e) The Department will rely solely on the contact information supplied by the Subrecipient as indicated in the Department's web-based Contract System. It is the Subrecipient's sole responsibility to ensure such information is current, accurate, and complete. Correspondence sent to the email or physical address shown in the Contract System will be deemed delivered to the Subrecipient. The Department is not required to send a paper copy and if it does so it does as a voluntary and non-precedential courtesy only.

§7.8 Records Retention

(a) Records must be kept in accordance with §1.409 of this title (relating to Records Retention).

(b) Record retention for construction/rehabilitation/conversion of emergency shelters or Dwelling Units must be retained until the expiration of the LURA.

(c) For ESG, retention for records relevant to the ESG Contract (including but not limited to shelter and habitability inspections) shall be kept in accordance with 24 CFR §576.500 and TXGMS, as defined at §1.401 of this title (relating to Definitions), as applicable except if any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, monitoring, inspection, or other action has started before the expiration of the required record retention period, records must be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the required period, whichever is later. The record retention period does not begin until one year after the expiration of the Contract.

(d) For state funds, retention for records relevant to the Contract (including but not limited to shelter and habitability inspections) shall be kept in accordance with UGMS or TXGMS, as applicable, and retained by the Subrecipient for a period of three years from the expiration of the Contract except if any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, monitoring, inspection, or other action has started before the expiration of the required record retention period, records must be retained until completion of the

action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the required period, whichever is later.

§7.9 Contract Termination and Deobligation

(a) When a Contract is terminated or voluntarily relinquished, the procedures described in this section will be implemented.

(b) The terminology of a "terminated" Subrecipient is intended to include the Subrecipient that is voluntarily or involuntarily terminating their Contract, but does not include Contracts that expire without being sent a termination letter.

(1) The Department will issue a termination letter to the Subrecipient no less than 30 calendar days prior to terminating the Contract. The Department may determine to take any of the following actions: suspend funds immediately or allow a temporary transfer to another Subrecipient; or provide instructions to the Subrecipient to prepare a proposed budget and written plan of action that supports the closeout of the Contract. The plan must identify the name and current titles of staff that will perform the closeout and an estimated dollar amount to be incurred. The plan must identify the CPA or firm which will perform the Single Audit. The Department will issue an official termination date to allow all parties to calculate deadlines which are based on such date.

(2) No later than 30 calendar days after the Contract is terminated, the Subrecipient will take a physical inventory of Program Participant files, including case management files.

(3) The terminated Subrecipient will have 30 calendar days from the date of the physical inventory to make available to the Department all Program Participant files. Current and active case management files also must be inventoried.

(4) The terminated Subrecipient will prepare and submit, no later than 30 calendar days from the date the Department retrieves the files, a final report containing a full accounting of all funds expended under the Contract.

(5) A Monthly Expenditure Report and a Monthly Performance Report for all remaining expenditures incurred during the closeout period must be received by the Department no later than 45 calendar days from the date the Department determines that the closeout of the program and the period of transition are complete.

(6) The Subrecipient will submit to the Department no later than 45 calendar days after the termination of the Contract, an inventory of the non-expendable personal property acquired in whole or in part with funds received under the Contract.

(7) The Department may require transfer of Equipment title to the Department or to any other entity receiving funds under the program in question. The Department will make arrangements to remove Equipment covered by this paragraph within 90 calendar days following termination of the Contract.

(8) A current year Single Audit must be performed for all entities that have exceeded the federal expenditure threshold under 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F or the State expenditure threshold under TXGMS, as applicable. The Department will allow a proportionate share of program funds to pay for accrued audit costs, when an audit is required, for a Single Audit that covers the date up to the closeout of the Contract. To be reimbursed for a Single Audit, the terminated Subrecipient must have a binding contract with a CPA firm on or before the termination date of the Contract. The actual costs of the Single Audit and accrued audit costs including support documentation must be submitted to the Department no later than 45 calendar days from the date the Department determines the closeout is complete. See §1.403 of this title (relating to Single Audit Requirements) for more information.

(9) Subrecipient shall submit within 45 calendar days after the date of the closeout process all financial, performance, and other applicable reports to the Department. The Department may approve extensions when requested by the Subrecipient. However, unless the Department authorizes an extension, the Subrecipient must abide by the 45 calendar day requirement of submitting all referenced reports and documentation to the Department.

§7.10 ~~Inclusive~~ Program Marketing

(a) The purpose of this section is to highlight certain policies and/or procedures that are required to have written documentation. Other items that are required for written standards are included in the federal or state rules.

(b) Participant selection criteria:

(1) Selection criteria will be applied in a manner consistent with all applicable laws, including the Texas and Federal Fair Housing Acts, program guidelines, and the Department's rules.

(2) If the local CoC has adopted priority for certain Homeless subpopulations or a specific funding source has a statutory or regulatory preference, then those subpopulations may be given priority by the Subrecipient. Such priority must be listed in the participant selection criteria.

(3) For ESG and federally funded Special Allocations, Subrecipient may not deny admission on the basis that the applicant has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

~~(34)~~ Notifications on denial, non-renewal, or termination of Assistance must:

(A) State that a Person with a Disability may request a reasonable accommodation in relation to such notice;

(B) Include any appeal rights the participant may have in regards to such notice; and

(C) For ESG and federally funded Special Allocations, inform Program Participants in any denial, non-renewal or termination notice information on rights they may have under VAWA. ~~(for ESG only, in accordance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA) protections). Subrecipient may not deny admission on the basis that the applicant has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.~~

(c) Other policies and procedures:

(1) Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan. Subrecipients providing project-based rental assistance under ESG or federally funded Special Allocations must have an Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan created in accordance with HUD requirements (if any) to direct specific marketing and outreach to potential tenants who are considered "least likely" to know about or apply for housing based on an evaluation of market area data. Subrecipient must comply with the Fair Housing Act and HUD's Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

(2) Language Access Plan Requirements. Subrecipient must follow federal regulations and guidance when interacting with Program Participants with Limited English Proficiency. In addition, consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Subrecipient must take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to programs and activities for LEP persons. A Subrecipient that interacts with Program Participants must create a Language Access Plan for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Requirements. Consistent with Title VI and Executive Order 13166, Subrecipient is also required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to programs and activities for LEP persons.

(3) Affirmative Outreach. If it is unlikely that outreach will reach persons of any particular race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, familial status, or disability who may qualify for those facilities and services, the Subrecipient must establish policies and procedures that target outreach to those persons. Subrecipient must take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with persons with disabilities including, but not limited to, adopting procedures that will make available to interested persons information concerning the location of assistance, services, and facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities. Subrecipient must make known that use of the facilities, assistance, and services that are available to all on a nondiscriminatory basis.

(4) Reasonable Accommodation. Subrecipient must comply with state and federal fair housing and antidiscrimination laws. Subrecipient's policies and procedures must address Reasonable Accommodation, including, but not limited to, consideration of Reasonable Accommodations requested to apply for assistance. See Chapter 1, Subchapter B of this title, relating to Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodations, for more information.

(a) Purpose and Overview

(1) This section provides the procedures that will be followed for monitoring for compliance with the programs in this chapter.

(2) Any entity administering any or all of the programs detailed in this chapter is a Subrecipient. A Subrecipient may also administer other programs, including programs administered by other state or federal agencies and privately funded programs. If the Subrecipient has Contracts for other programs through the Department, including, but not limited to, the HOME Partnerships Program, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, or the Texas Housing Trust Fund, the Department may, but is not required to and does not commit to, coordinate monitoring of those programs with monitoring of those programs under this Chapter.

(3) Any entity administering any or all of the programs provided for in subsection (a)(2) of this section as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), contract, or other legal agreement with a Subrecipient is a Subgrantee.

(b) Frequency of Reviews, Notification and Information Collection.

(1) In general, the Subrecipient or Subgrantee will be scheduled for monitoring based on state or federal monitoring requirements and/or a risk assessment. Factors to be included in the risk assessment include, but are not limited to: the number of Contracts administered by the Subrecipient or Subgrantee, the amount of funds awarded and expended, the length of time since the last monitoring, findings identified during previous monitoring, issues identified through the submission or lack of submission of a Single Audit, complaints received by the Department, and reports of fraud, waste, and/or abuse. The risk assessment will also be used to determine which Subrecipients or Subgrantees will have an onsite review and which may have a desk review.

(2) The Department will provide the Subrecipient or Subgrantee with written notice of any upcoming onsite or desk monitoring review, and such notice will be given to the Subrecipient and Subgrantee by email to the Subrecipient's and Subgrantee's Contract contact at the email address most recently provided to the Department by the Subrecipient or Subgrantee. In general, a 30 calendar day notice will be provided. However, if a credible complaint of fraud or other egregious noncompliance is received the Department reserves the right to conduct unannounced monitoring visits. It is the responsibility of the Subrecipients to provide to the Department the current contact information for the organization and the Board in accordance with §7.7 of this subchapter (relating to Subrecipient Contact Information) and §1.22 of this title (relating to Providing Contact Information to the Department).

(3) Upon request, Subrecipient and Subgrantee (if applicable) must make available to the Department all books and records that the Department determines are reasonably relevant to the scope of the Department's review. Typically, these records may include, but are not limited to:

- (A) Minutes of the governing board and any committees thereof, together with all supporting materials;
- (B) Copies of all internal operating procedures or other documents governing the Subrecipient's operations;
- (C) The Subrecipient's Board approved operating budget and reports on execution of that budget;
- (D) The Subrecipient's strategic plan or comparable document if applicable and any reports on the achievement of that plan;
- (E) Correspondence to or from any independent auditor;
- (F) Contracts with any third parties for goods or services and files documenting compliance with any applicable procurement and property disposition requirements;
- (G) All general ledgers and other records of financial operations (including copies of checks and other supporting documents);
- (H) Applicable Program Participant files with all required documentation;
- (I) Applicable human resources records;
- (J) Monitoring reports from other funding entities;
- (K) Program Participant files regarding complaints, appeals, and termination of services; and
- (L) Documentation to substantiate compliance with any other applicable state or federal requirements including, but not limited to, the Davis-Bacon Act, HUD requirements for environmental clearance, Lead Based Paint, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, VAWA, ~~HUD~~-LEP requirements, and requirements imposed by Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.

(c) Post Monitoring Procedures.

(1) In general, within 30 calendar days of the last day of the monitoring visit, a written monitoring report will be prepared for the Subrecipient describing the monitoring assessment and any corrective actions, if applicable. The monitoring report will be emailed to the Subrecipient's Board Chair and Executive Director. All Department monitoring reports and Subrecipient responses to monitoring reports must be provided to the governing body of the Subrecipient within the next two regularly scheduled meetings. Issues of concern over which there is uncertainty or ambiguity may be discussed by the Department with the staff of cognizant agencies overseeing federal funding. Certain types of suspected or observed improper conduct may trigger requirements to make reports to other oversight authorities, state and federal, including, but not limited to, the State Auditor's Office and applicable Inspectors General.

(2) Subrecipient Response. If there are any Findings of noncompliance requiring corrective action, the Subrecipient will be provided 30 calendar days from the date of the email to respond, which may be extended for good cause. In order to receive an extension, the Subrecipient must submit a written request to the Director of Compliance within the corrective action period, stating the basis for good cause that justifies the extension. The Department will approve or deny the extension request within five calendar days.

(3) Monitoring Close Out. Within 45 calendar days after the end of the corrective action period, a close out letter will be issued to the Subrecipient. If the Subrecipient's response satisfies issues raised in the monitoring letter, the issue of noncompliance will be noted as resolved. If the Subrecipient's response does not correct all Findings, the follow-up letter will identify the documentation that must be submitted to correct the issue.

(4) Options for Review. If, following the submission of corrective action documentation, Compliance staff continues to find the Subrecipient or Subgrantee in noncompliance, and the Subrecipient disagrees, the Subrecipient may request or initiate review of the matter using the following options, where applicable:

(A) If the issue is related to a program requirement or prohibition of a federal program, the Subrecipient may contact the applicable federal program officer for guidance or request that the Department contact applicable federal program officer for guidance without identifying the Subrecipient.

(B) If the issue is related to application of a provision of the Contract or a requirement of the Texas Administrative Code, the Subrecipient may request to submit an appeal to the Executive Director consistent with §1.7 of this title (relating to Appeals Process).

(C) The Subrecipient may request Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Subrecipient may send a proposal to the Department's Dispute Resolution Coordinator to initiate ADR pursuant to Chapter 1, Subchapter A of this title, relating to General Policies and Procedures.

(5) If the Subrecipient does not respond to a monitoring letter or fails to provide acceptable evidence of compliance, the matter will be handled through the procedures described in Chapter 2 of this title, relating to Enforcement.

§7.12 Waivers

(a) The Department's Governing Board (the "Board") may waive rules in this chapter for good cause to meet the purpose of the Homelessness Programs described further in §7.1 of this title (relating to Purpose and Goals). However, any waiver cannot conflict with the federal statutes or regulations, the Department's Action Plan, or state statutes governing any of the Homelessness Programs.

(b) A provision of a closed NOFA may not be waived except in the case of a disaster as described in §1.5 of this title (related to Waiver Applicability in the Case of Federally Declared Disasters) or a change in federal law that makes adherence to the requirements of the NOFA impossible or impracticable as determined by the Board.

Attachment C: Preamble, including required analysis, for proposed repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter C, Emergency Solutions Grants §§7.31-7.43

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes the repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter C, Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) §§7.31-7.43. The purpose of the proposed repeal is to eliminate an outdated rule while adopting a new updated rule under separate action.

The Department has analyzed this proposed rulemaking and the analysis is described below for each category of analysis performed.

a. GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.0221.

1. Mr. Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect, the proposed repeal does not create or eliminate a government program, but relates to the repeal, and simultaneous readoption making changes to an existing activity, administration of the Emergency Solutions Grants Program.
2. The proposed repeal does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor is the proposed repeal significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that any existing employee positions are eliminated.
3. The proposed repeal does not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The proposed repeal does not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor in a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The proposed repeal is not creating a new regulation, except that it is being replaced by a new rule simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The proposed action will repeal an existing regulation but is associated with a simultaneous readoption making changes to an existing activity, administration of the Emergency Solutions Grants Program.
7. The proposed repeal will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.
8. The proposed repeal will not negatively or positively affect this state's economy.

b. ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL OR MICRO-BUSINESSES OR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2006.002.

The Department has evaluated this proposed repeal and determined that the proposed repeal will not create an economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities.

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed repeal does not contemplate nor authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

d. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(6).

The Department has evaluated the proposed repeal as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect there would be no economic effect on local employment; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required to be prepared for the rule.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Mr. Wilkinson has determined that, for each year of the first five years the proposed repeal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the repealed section would be an updated and more germane rule. There will not be economic costs to individuals required to comply with the repealed section.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed repeal is in effect, enforcing or administering the repeal does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT The Department requests comments on the repeal The public comment period will be held January 30, 2026, to March 3, 2026, to receive input on the proposed repealed section. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Rosy Falcon, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941 or email homelessprograms@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin (Central) local time, MARCH 3, 2026.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The proposed repeal is made pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Except as described herein the proposed repealed sections affect no other code, article, or statute.

10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter C

§7.31 Purpose

§7.32 Use of ESG Funds

§7.33 Apportionment of ESG Funds

§7.34 Continuing Awards

§7.35 Eligible Applicants

§7.36 General Threshold Criteria

§7.37 Application Review and Administrative Deficiency Process

§7.38 Competitive Award and Funding Process

§7.39 Uniform Selection Criteria

§7.40 Competitive Program Participant Services Selection Criteria

§7.41 Contract Term, Expenditure Benchmark, Return of Funds, and Performance Targets

§7.42 General Administrative Requirements

§7.43 Program Income

Attachment D: Preamble for proposed new 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter C, Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) §§7.31-7.43

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes new 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter C, Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) §§7.31-7.43. The purpose of the proposed new subchapter is to update the rule to include special allocations of funds and to further clarify program requirements.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.0045(b) does not apply to the new rule proposed for action because it was determined that no costs are associated with this action, and therefore no costs warrant being offset.

The Department has analyzed this proposed rulemaking and the analysis is described below for each category of analysis performed.

a. GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.0221.

Mr. Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for the first five years the proposed new rule would be in effect:

1. The proposed new rule does not create or eliminate a government program, but relates to the readoption of this rule which makes changes to an existing activity, administration of the Emergency Solutions Grants Program.
2. The proposed new rule does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor are the rule changes significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that eliminates any existing employee positions.
3. The proposed new rule does not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The proposed new rule will not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor in a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The proposed new rule is not creating a new regulation, except that it is replacing a rule being repealed simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The proposed new rule will not limit or repeal an existing regulation, but can be considered to "expand" the existing regulations on this activity because the proposed new rule provides a regulatory framework for instances where the Department receives an additional allocation of funds for homelessness programs not contemplated by the current rule. However, this addition to the rule is necessary to ensure compliance with federal and state fund commitment deadlines.
7. The proposed new rule will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability; and
8. The proposed new rule will not negatively or positively affect the state's economy.

b. ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL OR MICRO-BUSINESSES OR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2006.002. The Department, in drafting this proposed new rule, has attempted to reduce any adverse economic effect on small or micro-business or rural communities while remaining consistent with the statutory requirements of Tex. Gov't Code, §2306. The Department has evaluated this new rule and determined that none of the adverse effect strategies outlined in Tex. Gov't Code §2006.002(b) are applicable.

The Department has determined that [because this rule only impacts nonprofits and units of local government by outlining administrative requirements of an existing program, there will be no economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities.

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed new rule does not contemplate or authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

d. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(6).

The Department has evaluated the new rule as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the new rule will be in effect the proposed new rule has no economic effect on local employment because this rule only outlines administrative requirements of an existing program; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required to be prepared for the new rule.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.022(a) states that this "impact statement must describe in detail the probable effect of the new rule on employment in each geographic region affected by this new rule..." Considering that these programs are offered in all areas of the state, there are no "probable" effects of the new rule on particular geographic regions.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Mr. Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for each year of the first five years the new rule is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the new rule will be an updated and more germane rule. There will not be any economic cost to any individuals required to comply with the new rule because the processes described by the rule have already been in place through the rule found at this section being repealed.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the new rule is in effect, enforcing or administering the new rule does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments because this rule only outlines administrative requirements of an existing program.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND INFORMATION RELATED TO COST, BENEFIT OR EFFECT. The Department requests comments on the rule and also requests information related to the cost, benefit, or effect of the proposed rule, including any applicable data, research, or analysis from any person required to comply with the proposed rule or any other interested person. The public comment period will be held January 30, 2026, to March 3, 2026, to receive input on the newly proposed rule. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Rosy Falcon, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941, by fax to (512) 475-0220, or email homelessprograms@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, MARCH 3, 2026.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The new rule(s) is/are proposed pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Except as described herein the proposed new rules affect no other code, article, or statute.

(a) The purpose of this rule is to provide guidance and procedures for the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and the ~~Emergency Solutions Grant CARES (ESG CARES)~~ programs Special Allocations of ESG funding as authorized by Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053. ESG and ~~ESG CARES~~ federally-funded Special Allocation Program funds are federal funds awarded to the State of Texas by HUD and administered by the Department under this Chapter.

(b) The regulations in this subchapter, relating to ESG and ~~ESG CARES~~, govern the administration of funds and establish policies and procedures for use of ESG funds to meet the purposes contained in Title IV of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §§11371 - 11378) (the Act), as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH Act). This is also generally the case for federally-funded Special Allocation Programs administered under this Chapter.

(c) Federally-funded Special Allocation Programs are not subject to §7.33 related to Apportionment of ESG Funds, §7.34 related to Continuing Awards, §7.38 related to Competitive Award and Funding Process; §7.39 related to Uniform Selection Criteria, or §7.40 related to Competitive Program Participant Services Section Criteria.

(c) In addition to this subchapter, a Subrecipient shall comply with the regulations applicable to the ESG and ~~ESG CARES~~ federally-funded Special Allocation programs as set forth in Chapters 1 and 2 of this title (relating to Administration and Enforcement, respectively), Subchapter A of Chapter 7 of this title (relating to General Policies and Procedures) and as set forth in 24 CFR Parts 5, 91, and 576 (the Federal Regulations). A Subrecipient must also follow all other applicable federal and state statutes and the regulations established in this chapter, relating to Homelessness Programs, as amended or supplemented.

(d) In the event that Congress, the Texas Legislature, or HUD add or change any statutory or regulatory requirements, special conditions, or waivers, concerning the use or administration of these funds, a Subrecipient shall comply with such requirements at the time they become effective.

§7.32 Use of ESG Funds

(a) ESG Applications for provision of Program Participant services under emergency shelter, street outreach, homelessness prevention and/or rapid re-housing may include a request for funds for Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) activities. Applications proposing to provide only HMIS activities are not eligible for an award of funds.

(b) Subrecipient may not Subgrant funds, but may Subcontract for the provision of services. Such Subcontracts are subject to applicable procurement requirements.

(c) The Department's Governing Board of Directors, Executive Director, or his/her designee may limit activities in a NOFA, or by Contract.

(d) Program Participant services may be provided under street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing, as described in this subsection or otherwise permitted in Federal Regulations.

(e) The street outreach component may be provided to unsheltered Homeless persons as defined in 24 CFR §576.101(a). Eligible costs for Program Participants of street outreach include the following services:

(1) Engagement costs to locate, identify, and build relationships with unsheltered Homeless persons, including assessment of needs, crisis counseling, addressing urgent physical needs, provision of information and referrals;

(2) Case management costs to assess housing and service needs and coordinate delivery of services;

(3) Emergency health services to the extent that other health services are inaccessible or unavailable in the area;

(4) Emergency mental health services to the extent that other mental health services are inaccessible or unavailable in the area; and

(5) Transportation for outreach workers and Program Participants, not including the purchase or lease of vehicles.

(f) The emergency shelter component may be provided to Homeless persons per 24 CFR §576.102. Eligible emergency shelter costs are for Program Participant services and costs related to the shelter building, relocation, and operation.

(1) Eligible costs for Program Participants of emergency shelter services include:

(A) Case management to coordinate individualized services;

(B) Child care for children under the age of 13, and for disabled children under the age of 18;

(C) Education services providing instruction or training to enhance their ability to obtain and maintain housing, including but not limited to literacy, English literacy, General Educational Requirement (GED) preparation, consumer education, health education, and substance abuse prevention;

(D) Employment assistance and job training services;

(E) Outpatient health services to the extent that other health services are inaccessible or unavailable in the area;

(F) Legal services, to the extent that legal services are unavailable or inaccessible within the community, to assist with housing needs, excluding immigration and citizenship matters, matters related to mortgages, legal retainers and contingency fees;

(G) Life skills training including budgeting resources, managing money, managing a household, resolving conflict, shopping for food and need items, improving nutrition, using public transportation, and parenting;

(H) Outpatient mental health services to the extent that other mental health services are inaccessible or unavailable in the area;

(I) Outpatient substance abuse treatment services up to 30 days, excluding inpatient treatment; and

(J) Transportation for staff and Program Participants related to the provision of essential services, not including the purchase or lease of vehicles.

(2) Eligible emergency shelter costs related to the shelter building, relocation, and operation include:

(A) Certain costs for operation of emergency shelters, including provision of hotel or motel vouchers to Program Participants when no appropriate emergency shelter is available and minor or routine repairs to the shelter facility; and

(B) Assistance required under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

(g) The homelessness prevention component may be provided to Homeless persons and persons At-risk of Homelessness per 24 CFR §576.103, and the rapid re-housing component may be provided to Homeless persons per 24 CFR §576.104. Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing may be provided for up to 24 months of assistance in a 36-month period. Eligible costs for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing include housing relocation and stabilization for financial assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, and rental assistance.

(1) Housing relocation and stabilization for financial assistance include:

(A) Rental application fees;

(B) Security deposits (equal to not more than two month's rent) and last month's rent;

(C) Utility deposits and/or utility payments;

(D) Moving costs, such as truck rental or hiring a moving company. Payment of arrearages for temporary storage is not an eligible cost; and

(E) Costs to break a lease to effect an emergency transfer per 24 CFR §5.2005(e), if Program Participant is receiving rental assistance under ESG.

(2) Housing relocation and stabilization services include:

(A) Housing search and placement costs to assist in locating, obtaining, and retaining suitable permanent housing;

(B) Housing stability case management for assessing, arranging, coordinating and monitoring the delivery of individual services to facilitate housing stability;

(C) Mediation between the Program Participant and the landlord/owner to prevent loss of current housing;

(D) Legal services for housing needs excluding immigration and citizenship matters, matters related to mortgages, legal retainers and contingency fees; and

(E) Credit repair and resolution, excluding payment or modification of debts.

(3) Non-duplicative rental assistance may be provided for up to 24 months within any 36-month period. Late payment penalties during the term of assistance are not eligible ESG expenses. Rental assistance includes:

(A) Short-term rental assistance which is up to three months of rent, inclusive of arrearages, late fees accrued prior to the term of assistance, and last month's rent; and

(B) Medium-term rental assistance which is more than three months of rent but not more than 24 months of rent, inclusive of up to six months of arrearages, late fees accrued prior to the term of assistance, and last month's rent.

(h) Costs to participate in HMIS are eligible ESG costs. Eligible costs related to HMIS include:

(1) Hardware, software, equipment, office space, utility costs;

(2) Salary and staff costs for operation of HMIS, including technical support;

(3) HMIS training and overhead costs, including travel to HUD sponsored and approved HMIS training programs and travel costs for staff to conduct intake;

(4) HMIS participation fees charged by the HMIS lead agency; and

(5) HMIS-comparable databases for victim services providers or legal services providers.

(i) Eligible administrative costs for ESG are:

(1) General management and oversight of the ESG award, excluding cost to purchase office space;

(2) Provision of ESG training and costs to attend HUD-sponsored ESG training; and

(3) Costs to carry out required environmental reviews.

(j) Eligible activities and costs for federally funded Special Allocation Programs not included in this section may be eligible or ineligible based on federal requirements specific to the Special Allocation, as further reflected in the Contract.

§7.33 Apportionment of ESG Funds

(a) The Department will retain funds for Administrative activities. Funds for Administrative or Program Participant services may be retained by TDHCA to Subgrant specific ESG activities, such as legal services or as operating costs for non-congregate emergency shelters funded by the Department's allocation of funds from the HOME American Rescue Plan Act.

(b) If the Department receives ESG or other funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that generally incorporates the ESG statutes and regulations, but that has additional activity or geographic restrictions, the Department may elect not to use the Allocation Formula. Funds retained under subsection (a) of this section are not subject to the Allocation Formula.

(c) ESG funds not retained for the purposes outlined or excluded from the Allocation Formula in subsections (a) and (b) of this section will be made available by CoC region based on an Allocation Formula. Allocation Formula factors noted in paragraphs (1) - (4) of this subsection will be used to calculate distribution percentages for each CoC region as follows:

(1) Fifty percent weight will be apportioned to renter cost burden for Households with incomes less than 30% Area Median Family Income (AMFI), as calculated in the ~~U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's~~ (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy;

(2) Fifty percent weight will be apportioned for the number of persons in poverty from the most recent five-year estimate of the American Community Survey released by the U.S. Census Bureau;

(3) Fifty percent weight will be apportioned to point-in-time counts, which are annual counts of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness on one day during the last two weeks of

January as required by HUD for CoCs. If a CoC did not conduct a point-in-time count or only completed a partial point-in-time count, the results of the most recent point-in-time count conducted that covered both the sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness will be utilized for the purposes of the Allocation Formula; and

(4) Negative 50% weight will be apportioned based on a total of all ESG funding allocated by HUD to local jurisdictions within the CoC region, and ESG funding awarded by the Department within the region from the previous fiscal year.

(d) Each CoC region is allocated a minimum amount of \$100,000. This is accomplished by taking the amounts of all regions with over \$100,000 during the initial allocation and redistributing a proportional share to the regions with less than \$100,000. If the Department distributes by Allocation Formula less than the amount required to provide all regions with \$100,000, then the funds will be split evenly among the CoC regions.

(e) Not less than 70% of ESG funding allocated to the CoC regions shall be initially withheld from competition for use by Subrecipients eligible for continuing awards as described under §7.34 of this subchapter (relating to Continuing Awards).

(f) Those ESG funds allocated based on the formula in subsection (c) of this section will be made available for the provision of Program Participant services; they will be made available through a NOFA for both continuing awards described in subsection (e) of this section and for competitive Applications which will be released on an annual basis.

(1) Not more than 60% of total ESG funds under direct Subgrants, continuing, and competitive awards may be awarded for the provision of street outreach and emergency shelter activities. Funds will first be made available to direct Subgrants, then continuing awards. Remaining funds will be made available for competitive awards.

(2) Contract funding limits include the funding request for all Program Participant services proposed in the Application, HMIS, and Administrative funds.

(A) Funding request minimums and maximums will be noted in the NOFA.

(B) Funds awarded for HMIS are limited to 12% of the amount of funds awarded for Program Participant services.

(C) Administrative activities are limited to three percent of the amount of funds awarded for Program Participant services.

(g) ESG funds that have been deobligated by the Department or that have been voluntarily returned from an ESG Contract may be reprogrammed at the discretion of the Department, and are not included in the Allocation Formula or award process detailed in subsections (c) - (f) or (h) - (j) of this section.

(h) An ESG Applicant may have the right to appeal funding decisions per §1.7 of this title (relating to Appeals Process).

(i) The Department reserves the right to negotiate the final Contract amount and local Match requirement with an Applicant.

(j) Percentages described in this subchapter will not be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

§7.34 Continuing Awards

(a) TDHCA will withhold a portion of funds from the competition for funds to be used for continuing awards to prior Subrecipients of its ESG allocation, not including ~~ESG CARES~~ Special Allocations or Contracts for reallocated funds from prior years only, in accordance with §7.33 of this subchapter (related to Apportionment of ESG Funds).

(b) ESG funds withheld for continuing awards by the Department will be allocated in accordance with the Allocation Formula, and are not subject to the award process and requirements outlined in §7.38 of this subchapter (relating to Competitive Award and Funding Process).

(c) The subsequent years of allocation of ESG funds received by the Department will be offered to eligible Subrecipients of ESG funds (not including ~~ESG CARES~~ federally-funded Special Allocations) that were awarded funds from at least three of the prior four allocations of ESG. An ESG Subrecipient is eligible for an offer of a continuing award of funds if the Subrecipient meets the following requirements:

(1) Submits an abbreviated Application for funding within 21 days of the request from the Department as promulgated by the Department;

(2) Resolves administrative deficiencies within the timeframe and in the manner outlined in §7.37 of this subchapter (relating to Application Review and Administrative Deficiency Process for Department NOFAs);

(3) Submitted two or fewer delinquent monthly reports for each of their active ESG Contracts or for the most recently closed ESG Contract if there are no active ESG Contracts, (not including ~~ESG CARES~~ federally-funded Special Allocations) for reports due in the six-month period preceding the application submission deadline;

(4) Satisfies the requirements of the Previous Participation Review as provided for in §1.302 of this title (relating to Previous Participation Reviews for Department Program Awards Not Covered by §1.301 of this title);

(5) Does not have unresolved monitoring findings in any TDHCA funded program after the corrective action period;

(6) Does not have monitoring findings in any TDHCA funded program which resulted in disallowed costs in excess of \$5,000;

(7) Does not apply for funds within the same COC Region under the competitive Application process for Program Participant service(s) in which they are already funded for a Continuing Award;

(8) Expended a minimum of 95% of their contracted award amount, as amended in their most recently closed ESG Contract (not including ~~ESG CARES~~federally-funded Special Allocations);

(9) Did not voluntarily deobligate an amount that exceeds 5% of their contracted award amount, as amended for increases due to reallocated funds, on their most recently closed ESG Contract (not including ~~ESG CARES~~federally-funded Special Allocations);

(10) Submitted the most recent yearly report information, as required in 10 TAC §7.5(h)(1), in SAGE by the deadline established by the Department for the report due in the period preceding the application submission deadline; and

(11) Is approved by the Department's Governing Board.

(d) Any offer of ESG funds made under this section is contingent on retaining similar terms and conditions or agreeing to adjustments reflective of funding amount, including but not limited to performance and match requirements, in the active ESG annual Contract issued under a NOFA.

(e) Offers of funding will be based on the prior year's award, excluding Contracts comprised exclusively of reallocated funds, before amendments, and will be proportionally increased or decreased in proportion to the total amount of ESG funds available subject to the allocation formula.

(f) If additional funds are made available due to reduced continuing awards in the region, awards may be increased proportionate to the increased withheld funds. In any event, an increased award from funds made available from reduced awards may not exceed 115% of the award amount under the allocation or the maximum award amount established in the NOFA.

(g) Funds that remain available after all eligible continuing awards have been accepted will be transferred to the competition for funds for the regional competition in accordance with §7.38 of this subchapter.

(h) Percentages identified in this section will not be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

§7.35 Eligible ApplicantsSubrecipients

(a) An eligible Subrecipient is a Unit of Local Government as defined by HUD in CPD Notice 17-10, or a Private Nonprofit Organization, except as limited by subsection (c).

(b) For ESG-funded Special Allocation Programs, eligible Subrecipients include any entity type determined to be eligible by HUD, except as limited by subsection (c).

~~(b)~~ (c) The Department reserves the option to limit eligible Subrecipient entities in a given NOFA or in a Request for Application.

§7.36 General Threshold Criteria

(a) Applications submitted to the Department are subject to general threshold criteria. Applications which do not meet the general threshold criteria or which cannot resolve an administrative deficiency related to general threshold criteria are subject to termination. Applicants applying directly to the Department to administer the ESG Program must submit an Application on or before the deadlines specified in the NOFA, notification of a direct Subgrant, or notification of availability of a continuing award, and must include items in paragraphs (1) - (13) of this subsection:

(1) Application materials as published by the Department including, but not limited to, program description, budget, and performance statement.

(2) An ESG budget that does not exceed the total amount available within the CoC region, other geographic limitation, Subgrant, or offer of continuing award, as applicable.

(3) A copy of the Applicant's written standards that comply with the requirements of 24 CFR §576.400 and certification of compliance with these standards. Any occupancy standard set by the Subrecipient must not conflict with local regulations or Texas Property Code §92.010.

(4) A copy of the Applicant's policy for termination of assistance that complies with the requirements of 24 CFR §576.402 and certification of compliance with these standards.

(5) A Service Area which consists of at least the entirety of one county or multiple counties within the CoC region under which Application is made, unless a CoC region does not include an entire county. When the CoC region does not encompass at least the entirety of one county, the Service Area must encompass the entire CoC region. The Service Area selected within an Application must be fully contained within one CoC region.

(6) Except for a federally-funded Special Allocation that does not have a federal Match requirement, ~~€~~commitment in the budget to the provision of 100% Match, or request for a Match waiver, as applicable. Match waivers will be considered by the Department based on the rank of the Application. Applicants requesting an award of funds in excess of the minimum award amount as described in the NOFA for Program Participant services are not eligible to request or receive a Match waiver. In the event

that the Match waivers requested exceed \$100,000, the waivers will be considered only for the highest scoring eligible Applications, subject to availability of excess Match provided by ESG Applicants. Applicants that do not receive the waiver and are unable to provide a source of Match will be ineligible for an ESG award.

(7) Applicant certification of compliance with State and federal laws, rules and guidance governing the ESG Program as provided in the Application.

(8) Evidence of a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number for Applicant.

(9) Documentation of existing Section 501(c) tax-exempt status, as applicable.

(10) Completed previous participation review materials, as outlined in Chapter 1, Subchapter C of this title (relating to Previous Participation), for Applicant.

(11) Local government approval per 24 CFR §576.202(a)(2) for an Applicant that will be providing shelter activities with ESG or as ESG Match, as applicable. This documentation must be submitted not later than 30 calendar days after the Application submission deadline as specified in the NOFA, or prior to execution of a Contract for Subrecipients subject to a direct Subgrant, or continuing award. Receipt of the local government approval is a condition prior to the Department obligating ESG funding.

(12) A resolution or other governing body action from the Applicant's direct governing body which includes:

(A) Authorization of the submission of the Application;

(B) Title of the person authorized to represent the entity and who also has signature authority to execute a Contract; and

(C) Date that the resolution was passed by the governing body, which must be not older than 12 months preceding the date the Application is submitted.

(13) Applicants with an ESG Contract(s) must have submitted the most recent yearly report information, as required in 10 TAC §7.5(h)(1), in SAGE by the deadline established by the Department for the report due in the period preceding the application submission deadline.

(b) An Application must be substantially complete when received by the Department. An Application may be terminated if the Application is so unclear or incomplete that a thorough review cannot reasonably be performed, as determined by the Department. Such Application will be terminated without being processed as an administrative deficiency. Specific reasons for a Department termination will be included in the notification sent to the Applicant but, because the termination may occur prior to completion of the full review, will not necessarily include a comprehensive list of all deficiencies in the

Application. Termination of an Application may be subject to §1.7 of this title (relating to Appeals Process).

§7.37 Application Review and Administrative Deficiency Process

(a) The Department will accept Applications on an ongoing basis during the Application acceptance period as specified in the NOFA or notification of an offer of a continuing award, as applicable. Applications will be reviewed for threshold criteria and selection criteria, if applicable, administrative deficiencies, and competitive Applications will be ranked based upon the score of the Application as determined by the Department upon completion of the review.

(b) The administrative deficiency process allows the Applicant to provide additional information with regard to an Application after the Application acceptance period has ended, but only if it is requested in writing by Department staff. Staff may request that an Applicant provide clarification, correction, or non-material missing information to resolve inconsistencies in the original Application or to assist staff in evaluating the Application. Staff will request such information via a deficiency notice. Staff will send the deficiency notice via email and responses must be in kind unless otherwise defined in the notice. A review of the Applicant's response may reveal that additional administrative deficiencies are exposed or that issues initially identified as an administrative deficiency are actually determined to be beyond the scope of an administrative deficiency process, meaning that they are in fact matters of a material nature not susceptible to be resolved. For example, a response to an administrative deficiency that causes a new inconsistency which cannot be resolved without reversing or eliminating the need for the first deficiency response would be an example of an issue that is beyond the scope of an administrative deficiency. Department staff will make a good faith effort to provide an Applicant confirmation that an administrative deficiency response has been received and/or that such response is satisfactory. Communication from staff that the response was satisfactory does not establish any entitlement to points, eligibility status, or to any presumption of a final determination that the Applicant has fulfilled any other requirements as such is the sole determination of the Department's Board.

(c) An Applicant may not change or supplement any part of an Application in any manner after submission to the Department, except in response to a direct written request from the Department to remedy an administrative deficiency or by amendment of an Application after the Board approval of an ESG award. An administrative deficiency may not be cured if it would, in the Department's determination, substantially change an Application including score, or if the Applicant provides any new unrequested information to cure the deficiency.

(d) The time period for responding to a deficiency notice commences on the first day following the deficiency notice date.

(1) If an administrative deficiency is not resolved to the satisfaction of the Department by 5:00 p.m. on the seventh calendar day following the date of the deficiency notice, then one point shall be deducted from the selection criteria score for each additional day the deficiency remains unresolved. If administrative deficiencies are not resolved by 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth calendar day following the

date of the deficiency notice for an Application in response to a NOFA, then the Application shall be terminated

(2) If an administrative deficiency is not resolved to the satisfaction of the Department by 5:00 p.m. on the seventh calendar day following the date of the deficiency notice for an Application in response to a continuing award offer, then the Application shall be terminated.

§7.38 Competitive Award and Funding Process

(a) An Application may be submitted requesting funds for Program Participant services under street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, and/or rapid re-housing. Each Application submission will include one uniform Application with information applicable across all Program Participant service types, and then information on each Program Participant service requested. Each Program Participant service reflected in an Application will be treated as a separate Application, assigned a separate Application number per service type, and will be scored and ranked separately for each service type selected. Applicants may be awarded funds for one or more Program Participant services in accordance with this section. Because each Program Participant service is reviewed separately and competes separately, an award of funds for provision of one Program Participant service does not affect an award of funds in any other Program Participant service reflected in that same Application submission.

(b) Applications submitted directly to the Department for under this section will receive points based on experience, program design, budget, previous performance, and performance measures. Applications will be scored and ranked based on selection criteria described in this subchapter.

(c) Applicants for a competitive award will be required to submit a self-score within the Application. In no event will the points awarded to the Applicant exceed the point value of the self-score in any selection criterion.

(d) Tie breakers. Each Application submitted to the Department for a competitive award shall be assigned a number between one and the total number of applications. The number assignment will be determined in a random selection process to occur immediately following the close of the application acceptance period, and Applicants will be notified of said number assignment as soon as possible thereafter. The randomly assigned numbers will be used to resolve ties, with the highest assigned number having the highest priority.

(e) Partial awards. In order to maintain funding within the Allocation Formula amounts designated for each CoC region as determined in this subchapter, an Applicant for a competitive award may be offered a partial award of their requested funds. An Applicant offered a partial award of funds must confirm their acceptance of a partial award, and submit updated information related to the reduction within seven calendar days following the date of notification. Scoring criteria may be updated based on the

reduced funding request, but any changes to the scoring criteria must allow the Application to maintain its rank.

(f) Regional Funding Competition. Funding will be recommended first for Applicants within the CoC region up to the Allocation Formula amount designated for the CoC region as determined in this subchapter.

(1) Eligible Applications will be ranked in descending order by score within the CoC region which the Application proposes to serve. Subsection (d) of this section will be used to determine the priority of tied scores.

(2) ESG funds allocated to each CoC region will be awarded starting with the highest ranking Application and continue until the funds allocated for that CoC region are fully utilized, but not exceeded, or until the Applicant for the last Application to be recommended in the region declines an offer of a partial award.

(3) Applications proposing street outreach or emergency shelter will be ranked alongside all Applications in the region, however, a recommendation for a full award of an Application for street outreach or emergency shelter will not be made through the first level of funding if funding recommendations in the CoC region for street outreach and emergency shelter will exceed 60% of the funding remaining in the CoC region after direct Subgrants and acceptance of continuing awards. Applications proposing street outreach and emergency shelter services but causing awards for such services in the region to exceed 60% of the available funding in the region, will be offered a partial award of up to the amount remaining to reach 60% for the region. If no funds remain available that would not exceed 60% at the regional level for a partial award, or if they decline such partial award, the Application will be passed over and recommendation of funding would proceed to the next highest scoring Application(s) in the region in order to fully fund the Formula Allocation amount for the region. Applications that were passed over for funding may be eligible to compete in the statewide funding competition, if no more than 60% of funds have been awarded for street outreach and emergency shelter in the total allocated funds.

(4) A partial award may be offered to the last highest ranking Application which is otherwise eligible for funding within the regional competition to ensure that the amount of funds recommended for a region does not initially exceed the amount identified in the Formula Allocation. Partial awards will be offered under the regional competition only if the funding remaining in the CoC region is more than \$30,000.

(A) The Applicant or Applicants that accept an offer of a partial award may be required to amend the Application if the reduction in funds is expected to impact scored items and to adjust performance deliverables based on the reduced amount of funding. The revised score based on the partial award must still ensure the Application ranking would not be affected. If a partial award or the Applicant's subsequent adjustments results in a reduced score that alters their scoring rank within the regional competition, the opportunity to be funded from the first level of funding recommendations will not be offered to the Application.

(B) The Applicant may decline the partial award of funds and instead request to be included for consideration in the statewide competition.

(g) Statewide Funding Competition. If any funds remain after recommendations for all eligible Applications in the regional funding competition, such funds shall collapse and be made available in the statewide competition.

(1) All eligible Applications not recommended to be awarded under the regional funding competition will be ranked in descending order of score with the highest scoring unfunded Application, regardless of region, having the highest priority rank. Subsection (e) of this section will be used to determine the outcome of tied scores.

(2) Funds will be awarded in the statewide funding competition starting with the highest ranked Application and continuing until no funds remain available to award or until there are no eligible Applications left to be recommended for funding.

(3) Applications proposing street outreach or emergency shelter will be ranked alongside all Applications. If the 60% of the allocated funds has been awarded to Applications proposing street outreach and emergency shelter, Applications proposing these activities will not be recommended and will be passed over to fund Applications proposing homeless prevention or rapid re-housing.

(4) The final award in the statewide funding competition and the 60% capped street outreach and emergency shelter funding may be a partial award if an Application cannot be fully funded.

(A) An Applicant that accepts an offer of a partial award may be required to amend the Application if the reduction in funds is expected to impact scored items and to adjust performance deliverables based on the reduced amount of funding. The revised score based on the partial award must still ensure the Application's ranking would not be affected. Partial awards may only be offered if the remaining funding exceeds the minimum award amount as stated in the NOFA.

(B) The Applicant may decline a partial award of funds. Applicants that decline a partial award of funding within the statewide competition will be withdrawn from competition, as there are not sufficient remaining funds to award the Application.

(C) If a partial award or the Applicant's subsequent adjustments result in a reduced score that alters the scoring rank or an Applicant declines a partial award, the next highest ranked Application will be presented with the opportunity to be funded.

(h) If there are still funds available after the statewide funding competition, the Department may offer and recommend award amounts in excess of the funds requested and in excess of the award amount limits identified in §7.33(c) of this subchapter (relating to Apportionment of ESG Funds), starting with

the highest scoring Applications already identified to be recommended for an award, not to exceed an award more than 50% greater than their original request. The Department will provide notice of the proposed increase to the impacted Applicants. The budget and Performance targets would increase proportionally to the additional funding received. An Applicant will have the opportunity to accept or reject the recommendation for increased funding prior to final award by the Department.

(i) The Department reserves the right to negotiate the final Contract amount and local Match with a Subrecipient.

§7.39 Uniform Selection Criteria

An Application for funding allocated in accordance with §7.33(b) of this section (relating to Apportionment of ESG Funds) and made to the Department may be awarded points under the following uniform selection criteria. The total of the score under this part will be the uniform Application score. The uniform Application score will be comprised of points awarded under each of the following criteria:

(1) Homeless participation. An Application may receive a maximum of three points for the participation of persons who are Homeless in the Applicant's program design. Points may be earned under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph for a total of up to three points.

(A) An Application may receive a maximum of two points when at least one person who is Homeless or formerly Homeless is a member of or consults with the Applicant's policy-making entity for facilities, services, or assistance under ESG; and

(B) An Application may receive a maximum of one point when at least one person who is Homeless or formerly Homeless is employed in a paid position with duties that include constructing, renovating, maintaining, or operating the Applicant's ESG facilities, or providing services for occupants of its ESG facilities.

(2) Organizational or management experience. An Application may receive a maximum of eight points for an Applicant or its management staff's experience administering federal or State homeless programs.

(A) An Application may receive a maximum of three points for an Applicant or its management staff with at least two but less than four years of experience;

(B) An Application may receive a maximum of five points for an Applicant or its management staff with at least four but less than six years of experience; or

(C) An Application may receive a maximum of eight points for an Applicant or its management staff with six or more years of experience.

(3) Percentage of prior ESG awarded funds expended. An Application may receive a maximum of six points for the Applicant's past expenditure performance of ESG funds proportionate to the award of funds from TDHCA to the Applicant. This will apply to any and all ESG Contract(s), exclusive of ~~ESG CARES~~federally funded Special Allocation Contracts, administered by the Applicant that were closed within 12 months prior to the date of the Application deadline established in the by the Department. Contract Expenditures will be averaged among all ESG Contracts that were closed within 12 months of the Application deadline, without requiring an amendment if the Applicant was awarded multiple Contracts. The percentage of ESG funds expended will be calculated utilizing the amount of the Contract as of its closing as stated in the Contract prior to amendments, except where the Applicant voluntarily return funds in accordance with this subchapter. Expenditure will be defined as the Applicant having reported the funds as expended. Applications may receive:

(A) Two points if the Applicant expended 91-94% of its prior ESG Contract funds as of its closing as stated in the Contract prior to amendments;

(B) Three points if the Applicant expended 95% to less than 100% of its prior ESG Contract funds as of its closing as stated in the Contract prior to amendments; or

(C) Six points if the Applicant expended 100% of its prior ESG Contract funds as of its closing as stated in the Contract prior to amendments.

(4) Contract History on Reporting and percentage of Outcomes. An Applicant may receive a maximum of twelve points for its prior timeliness of reports and performance achieved for previously awarded ESG Contract(s), exclusive of ~~ESG CARES~~federally funded Special Allocation Contracts, that closed within 12 months prior to the date of the Application deadline established by the Department. Points may be requested under subparagraphs (A) - (E) of this paragraph, not to exceed a total of ten points. The Outcome percentages will be averaged among all prior ESG Contracts, exclusive of ~~ESG CARES~~federally funded Special Allocation Contracts, that closed within 12 months prior to the date of the Application deadline to determine the final percentage amount for this scoring criterion. Applications may receive points as follows:

(A) Two points if the Applicant submitted the last three reports on or before the Contract end date within the reports' respective reporting deadlines;

(B) Two points if the Applicant met 100% or more of their street outreach target of persons exiting to temporary or transitional or permanent housing destination;

(C) Two points if the Applicant met 100% or more of their emergency shelter exits to permanent housing;

(D) Two points if the Applicant met 100% or more of their Homelessness prevention target for maintaining housing for three months or more;

(E) Two points if the Applicant met 100% or more of their rapid re-housing target for maintaining housing for three months or more; and

(F) Two points if the Applicant met 100% or more of their Match obligation.

(G) Twelve points if the Applicant has not previously been awarded an ESG Contract closed within 12 months prior to the date of the Application deadline.

(5) Monitoring history. Applications may receive a maximum of five points for the Applicant's previous ESG and ~~ESG CARES~~ federally funded Special Allocation program monitoring history. The Department will consider the monitoring history for three years before the date that Applications are first accepted under the NOFA when determining the points awarded under this criterion. Findings that were subsequently rescinded will not be considered Findings for the purposes of this scoring criterion. Applications may be limited to a maximum of:

(A) Five points if the Applicant has not received any monitoring Findings, including Applicants with no previous monitoring history;

(B) Not more than three points if the monitoring history has a close-out letter that included Findings, but the Findings were not related to Household eligibility or violations of procurement requirements;

(C) Not more than two points if the monitoring history has a close-out letter that included Findings related to Household eligibility;

(D) Not more than one point if the monitoring history has a monitoring close-out letter that included Findings related to violations of procurement requirements; or

(E) Zero points may be requested under this criterion if the Applicant received a Finding resulting in disallowed costs in excess of \$5,000 which required repayment to the Department.

(6) Priority for certain communities. Applications may receive two points if at least one Colonia, as defined in Tex. Gov't Code §2306.083, is included in the Service Area identified in the Application. Applicants awarded points under this criterion will be contractually required to maintain a Service Area that includes at least one Colonia as identified on the Office of Attorney General's website.

(7) Previously unserved areas. Applications may receive a maximum of 10 points for provision of ESG services if at least one county in the Service Area included in the Application has not received ESG funds from the Department or directly from HUD within the previous federal funding year for services. Applications may receive a maximum (of ten points if at least one county within the Service Area as stated in the Application did not receive an award of ESG annual funds from the Department within the previous federal funding year.

(8) Percentages identified in this section will not be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

§7.40 Competitive Program Participant Services Selection Criteria

(a) An Application for competitive funding allocated under §7.33(b) of this subchapter (relating to Apportionment of ESG Funds), and made to the Department, may be awarded points for Program Participant services under each category. Points awarded for Program Participant services will be separately tabulated and added to the uniform Application score to determine a score for each of the Program Participant services Applications submitted. All scoring criteria that are based upon measurable future performance expectations will be measured and expected to be fulfilled by being included as a performance requirement in the Contract should the Application be awarded funds.

(b) Street outreach. An Application proposing street outreach may receive points under the following criteria:

(1) Matching funds for street outreach. An Application may receive a maximum of three points if the Applicant commits Matching funds equal to or greater than 110% of the total ESG funds requested for street outreach.

(2) Street outreach serving Homeless Subpopulations. An Application may receive a maximum of five points by proposing to serve persons who are in a Homeless Subpopulation, as defined in §7.2(31) of this chapter (relating to Definitions). An Applicant providing street outreach may receive a maximum of:

(A) One point based on a minimum target of 70% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation;

(B) Two points based on a minimum target of 80% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation;

(C) Three points based on a minimum target of 90% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation;

(D) Four points based on a minimum target of 95% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation; or

(E) Five points based on a minimum target of 100% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation.

(3) Street outreach exit to a positive housing destination. An Application may receive a maximum of five points based on the percentage of persons served within the 12 months prior to the Application due date who exited homelessness to a positive housing destination per HMIS data standards:

(A) Two points based on 25% of persons served with street outreach who exited to positive housing destinations;

(B) Three points based on 35% of persons served with street outreach who exited to positive housing destinations;

(C) Four points based on 45% of persons served with street outreach who exited to positive housing destinations; or

(D) Five points based on 55% of persons served with street outreach who exited to positive housing destinations.

(4) Street outreach staff qualifications. An Applicant may receive a maximum of six points if a member of the staff interacting with Program Participants in the street outreach component has one or more of the following qualifications:

(A) Two points if a member is a licensed mental health provider through the Texas Behavioral Executive Health Council;

(B) Two points if a member of staff is fluent in one or more languages identified in the Applicant's Language Access Plan as necessary to provide equitable, meaningful access for persons with Limited English Proficiency; and

(C) Two points if program includes a paid staff member who has formerly experienced homelessness.

(5) Street outreach temporary/transitional/permanent housing target. An Application may receive a maximum of three points based on the percentage of persons targeted to be served with street outreach who will be placed in temporary, transitional or permanent housing. An Application may receive a maximum of:

(A) One point based on a minimum target of 35% of persons served with street outreach who will be placed in temporary housing;

(B) Two points based on a minimum target of 45% of persons served with street outreach who will be placed in temporary housing; or

(C) Three points based on a minimum target of 55% of persons served with street outreach who will be placed in temporary housing.

(6) Street outreach services. An Application may receive a maximum of five points based on the number of street outreach services provided through ESG or other funds including engagement, case

management, emergency health services, emergency mental health services, and transportation services. Emergency health services and emergency mental services may only be provided by ESG funds if these services are inaccessible or unavailable within the area. An Application may receive a maximum of:

(A) Two points if the Applicant provides street outreach engagement and case management;

(B) Three points if the Applicant provides street outreach engagement and case management, and one other service;

(C) Four points if the Applicant provides street outreach engagement and case management, and two other services; or

(D) Five points if the Applicant provides street outreach engagement and case management, and three other services.

(7) Experience providing street outreach. An Application may receive a maximum of 10 points based on the Applicant's experience providing street outreach services.

(A) Two points if the Applicant has provided street outreach for up to two years;

(B) Four points if the Applicant has provided street outreach for up to four years;

(C) Six points if the Applicant has provided street outreach for up to six years;

(D) Eight points if the Applicant has provided street outreach for up to eight years; or

(E) Ten points if the Applicant has provided street outreach for 10 or more years.

(c) Emergency shelter. An Application proposing emergency shelter may receive points under the following criteria:

(1) Matching funds for emergency shelter. An Application may receive a maximum of three points if the Applicant commits Matching funds equal to or greater than 110% of the total ESG funds requested for emergency shelter.

(2) Emergency shelter serving Homeless Subpopulations. An Application may receive a maximum of five points by proposing to serve persons who are in a Homeless Subpopulation, as defined in §7.2(31) of this chapter (relating to Definitions). An Applicant providing emergency shelter may receive a maximum of:

(A) One point based on a minimum target of 70% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation;

(B) Two points based on a minimum target of 80% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation;

(C) Three points based on a minimum target of 90% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation;

(D) Four points based on a minimum target of 95% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation; or

(E) Five points based on a minimum target of 100% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation.

(3) Emergency shelter exit to a positive housing destination. An Application may receive a maximum of five points based on the percentage of persons served within the 12 months prior to the Application due date exited homelessness to a positive housing destination per HMIS data standards:

(A) Two points based on 25% of persons served with emergency shelter who exited to positive housing destinations;

(B) Three points based on 35% of persons served with emergency shelter who exited to positive housing destinations;

(C) Four points based on 45% of persons served with emergency shelter who exited to positive housing destinations; or

(D) Five points based on 55% of persons served with emergency shelter who exited to positive housing destinations.

(4) Emergency shelter staff qualifications. An Applicant may receive a maximum of six points if a member of the staff interacting with Program Participants in the street outreach component has one or more of the following qualifications:

(A) Two points if a member is a licensed mental health provider through the Texas Behavioral Executive Health Council;

(B) Two points if a member of staff is fluent in one or more languages, other than English, identified in the Applicant's Language Access Plan as necessary to provide equitable, meaningful access for persons with Limited English Proficiency; and

(C) Two points if program includes a paid staff member who has formerly experienced homelessness.

(5) Emergency shelter permanent housing. An Applicant may receive a maximum of three points based on the percentage of persons served with emergency shelter targeted to be placed in permanent housing. An Application may receive a maximum of:

(A) One point based on a minimum target of 35% of persons served with emergency shelter who will be placed in permanent housing;

(B) Two points based on a minimum target of 45% of persons served with emergency shelter who will be placed in permanent housing; or

(C) Three points based on a minimum target of 55% of persons served with emergency shelter who will be placed in permanent housing.

(6) Emergency shelter services. An Applicant may receive a maximum of five points based on the number of emergency shelter services provided through ESG or other funds, as listed in 24 CFR §576.102. Emergency shelter services include case management, child care, education services, employment assistance and job training, outpatient health services, legal services, life skills training, outpatient mental health services, outpatient substance abuse treatment services, and transportation. Outpatient health services, mental services, and substance abuse treatment services should only be provided by ESG funds if these services are otherwise inaccessible or unavailable within the Service Area. This selection criterion will become a contractual requirement if the Applicant is awarded a Contract. An Application may receive a maximum of:

(A) Two points if the Applicant provides case management and two of the other services;

(B) Three points if the Applicant provides case management and three of the other services;

(C) Four points if the Applicant provides case management and four of the other services; or

(D) Five points if the Applicant provides case management and five of the other services.

(7) Experience providing emergency shelter. An Application may receive a maximum of 10 points based on the Applicant's experience providing emergency shelter services.

(A) Two points if the Applicant has provided emergency shelter for up to two years;

(B) Four points if the Applicant has provided emergency shelter for up to four years;

(C) Six points if the Applicant has provided emergency shelter for up to six years;

(D) Eight points if the Applicant has provided emergency shelter for up to eight years; or

(E) Ten points if the Applicant has provided emergency shelter for 10 or more years.

(d) Homelessness prevention. An Application proposing homelessness prevention may receive points under the following criteria:

(1) Matching funds for homelessness prevention. An Application may receive a maximum of three points if the Applicant commits Matching funds equal to or greater than 110% of the total ESG funds requested for homelessness prevention.

(2) Homelessness prevention serving Homeless Subpopulations. An Application may receive a maximum of five points by proposing to serve persons who are in a Homeless Subpopulation, as defined in §7.2(31) of this chapter (relating to Definitions). An Applicant providing homelessness prevention may receive a maximum of:

(A) One point based on a minimum target of 70% of persons served who have one or more special needs;

(B) Two points based on a minimum target of 80% of persons served who have one or more special needs;

(C) Three points based on a minimum target of 90% of persons served who have one or more special needs;

(D) Four points based on a minimum target of 95% of persons served who have one or more special needs; or

(E) Five points based on a minimum target of 100% of persons served who have one or more special needs.

(3) Homelessness prevention exit to a positive housing destination. An Application may receive a maximum of five points based on the percentage of persons served within the 12 months prior to the Application due date exited homelessness to a positive housing destination per HMIS data standards:

(A) Two points based on 25% of persons served with homelessness prevention who exited to positive housing destinations;

(B) Three points based on 35% of persons served with homelessness prevention who exited to positive housing destinations;

(C) Four points based on 45% of persons served with homelessness prevention who exited to positive housing destinations; or

(D) Five points based on 55% of persons served with homelessness prevention who exited to positive housing destinations.

(4) Homelessness prevention staff qualifications. An Applicant may receive a maximum of six points if a member of the staff interacting with Program Participants in the homelessness prevention component has one or more of the following qualifications:

(A) Two points if a member is a licensed mental health provider through the Texas Behavioral Executive Health Council;

(B) Two points if a member of staff is fluent in one or more languages, other than English, identified in the Applicant's Language Access Plan as necessary to provide equitable, meaningful access for persons with Limited English Proficiency; and

(C) Two points if program includes a paid staff member who has formerly experienced homelessness.

(5) Homelessness prevention maintaining housing. An Application may receive a maximum of three points based on the percentage of persons served with Homelessness prevention who are targeted to maintain their housing for three months or more after program exit. Applications may receive a maximum of:

(A) One point based on a minimum target of 50% of persons served with homelessness prevention maintaining housing for three months;

(B) Two points based on a minimum target of (60% of persons served with homelessness prevention maintaining housing for three months; or

(C) Three points based on a minimum target of 70% of persons served with homelessness prevention maintaining housing for three months.

(6) Homelessness prevention services and rental assistance. An Application may receive a maximum of five points based on the number of homeless prevention services and type of rental assistance provided through ESG or other funds. Homeless prevention services and rental assistance include rental application fees, security deposits and last month's rent, utility payments/deposits, moving costs, housing search and placement, housing stability case management, mediation, legal services, credit repair, short-term rental assistance, and medium-term rental assistance. An Application may receive a maximum of:

(A) Two points if the Applicant provides housing stability case management and three of the other services or rental assistance;

(B) Three points if the Applicant provides housing stability case management and four of the other services or rental assistance;

(C) Four points if the Applicant provides housing stability case management and five of the other services or rental assistance; or

(D) Five points if the Applicant provides housing stability case management and six of the other services or rental assistance.

(7) Experience providing homelessness prevention or rental assistance services. An Application may receive a maximum of 10 points based on the Applicant's experience providing homelessness prevention or tenant-based rental assistance services.

(A) Two points if the Applicant has provided homelessness prevention or tenant-based rental assistance services for up to two years;

(B) Four points if the Applicant has provided homelessness prevention or tenant-based rental assistance services for up to four years;

(C) Six points if the Applicant has provided homelessness prevention or tenant-based rental assistance services for up to six years;

(D) Eight points if the Applicant has provided homelessness prevention or tenant-based rental assistance services for up to eight years; or

(E) Ten points if the Applicant has provided homelessness prevention or tenant-based rental assistance services for 10 or more years.

(e) Rapid re-housing. An Application proposing rapid re-housing may receive points under the following criteria:

(1) Matching funds for rapid re-housing. Applications may receive a maximum of three points if the Applicant commits Matching funds equal to or greater than 110% of the total ESG funds requested for rapid re-housing.

(2) Rapid re-housing serving Homeless Subpopulations. An Application may receive a maximum of five points by proposing to serve persons who are in a Homeless Subpopulation, as defined in §7.2(31) of this chapter (relating to Definitions). Applicants providing rapid re-housing may receive a maximum of:

(A) One point based on a minimum target of 70% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation;

(B) Two points based on a minimum target of 80% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation;

(C) Three points based on a minimum target of 90% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation;

(D) Four points based on a minimum target of 95% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation; or

(E) Five points based on a minimum target of 100% of persons served who are in one or more Homeless Subpopulation.

(3) Rapid re-housing exit to a positive housing destination. An Application may receive a maximum of five points based on the percentage of persons served within the 12 months prior to the Application due date exited homelessness to a positive housing destination per HMIS data standards:

(A) Two points based on 25% of persons served with rapid re-housing exited to positive housing destinations;

(B) Three points based on 35% of persons served with rapid re-housing who exited to positive housing destinations;

(C) Four points based on 45% of persons served with rapid re-housing who exited to positive housing destinations; or

(D) Five points based on 55% of persons served with rapid re-housing who exited to positive housing destinations.

(4) Rapid re-housing staff qualifications. An Applicant may receive a maximum of six points if a member of the staff interacting with Program Participants in the rapid re-housing component has one or more of the following qualifications:

(A) Two points if a member is a licensed mental health provider through the Texas Behavioral Executive Health Council;

(B) Two points if a member of staff is fluent in one or more languages, other than English, identified in the Applicant's Language Access Plan as necessary to provide equitable, meaningful access for persons with Limited English Proficiency; and

(C) Two points if program includes a paid staff member who has formerly experienced homelessness.

(5) Rapid re-housing maintaining housing. Applicants may receive a maximum of three points based on the percentage of persons served with rapid re-housing targeted to maintain their housing for three months or more after program exit. Applications may receive a maximum of:

(A) One point based on a minimum target of 50% of persons served with rapid re-housing maintaining housing for three months;

(B) Two points based on a minimum target of 60% of persons served with rapid re-housing maintaining housing for three months; or

(C) Three points based on a minimum target of 70% of persons served with rapid re-housing maintaining housing for three months.

(6) Rapid re-housing services and rental assistance. Applicants may receive a maximum of five points based on the number of rapid re-housing services and type of rental assistance provided through ESG or other funds. Rapid re-housing services and rental assistance include rental application fees, security deposits/last month's rent, utility payments/deposits, moving costs, housing search and placement, housing stability case management, mediation, legal services, credit repair, short-term rental assistance, medium-term rental assistance. Applications may receive a maximum of:

(A) Two points if the Applicant provides housing stability case management and three of the other services or rental assistance;

(B) Three points if the Applicant provides housing stability case management and four of the other components;

(C) Four points if the Applicant provides housing stability case management and five of the other components; or

(D) Five points if the Applicant provides housing stability case management and six of the other components.

(7) Experience providing rapid re-housing or tenant-based rental assistance services. Applications may receive a maximum of 10 points based on the Applicant's experience providing homeless prevention or tenant-based rental assistance services.

(A) Two points if the Applicant has provided rapid re-housing or tenant-based rental assistance services for up to two years;

(B) Four points if the Applicant has provided rapid re-housing or tenant-based rental assistance services for up to four years;

(C) Six points if the Applicant has provided rapid re-housing or tenant-based rental assistance services for up to six years;

(D) Eight points if the Applicant has provided rapid re-housing or tenant-based rental assistance services for up to eight years; or

(E) Ten points if the Applicant has provided rapid re-housing or tenant-based rental assistance services for 10 or more years.

§7.41 Contract Term, Expenditure Benchmark, Return of Funds, and Performance Targets

(a) The initial Contract Term for ESG funds may not exceed 12 months, unless otherwise approved by the Board for an federally-funded Special Allocation Program. All funds awarded under the Contract must be expended by the Subrecipient on or before the expiration of the Contract, unless an extension has been granted in accordance with this section. A request to extend the Contract Term must show evidence that the extension is necessary to provide services required under the Contract, and provide good cause for failure to timely expend the funds. Extensions of Contract Terms are considered on a case-by-case basis, but are subject to §7.4(e) of this title (relating to Amendments and Extensions of Contracts).

(1) The Executive Director or his or her designee may approve an extension to the ESG Contract Term of up to six months from the original Contract Term; ~~and may approve an extension to the Expenditure deadline for ESG CARES.~~

(2) Board approval is required if the Subrecipient requests to extend an ESG Contract Term for more than six months from the original Contract Term.

(3) Amendments of Expenditure requirements will not be granted by the Executive Director or the Board when such action would cause the Department to miss a federal Expenditure deadline.

(b) Subrecipient is required to have reported Expenditures in its Monthly Expenditure Reports reflecting at least 50% of the Contracted funds by month nine of the original Contract Term. A Subrecipient that has not met this Expenditure benchmark must submit a plan to the Department evidencing the ability of the Subrecipient to expend the remaining funds by ~~month 12 of~~ the expiration of the original Contract Term. This Expenditure benchmark may not be extended through amendment.

(c) Not later than 60 days prior to the end of the Contract Term, a Subrecipient may submit a written request to voluntarily return some or all of its funds to the Department. Voluntary return of funds prior to the Expenditure benchmark constitutes a reduction in the awarded amount, and returned funds at or prior to the Expenditure benchmark will not be considered deobligated funds for the purpose of future

funding recommendations. Subrecipient must return any funds that would result in a violation of the administrative and HMIS expenditure limits of the Contract, as outlined in §7.33(f) of this subchapter prior to approval of a request to voluntarily deobligate funds for any Program Participant services.

(d) Funds remaining at the end of Contract which are not reflected in the last Monthly Expenditure Report will be automatically deobligated. Deobligation of funds may affect future funding recommendations.

(e) The Department may request information regarding the performance or status of a Contract prior to the Expenditure benchmark, at various times during the Contract, or during the record retention period. Subrecipient must respond within the time limit stated in the request. Prolonged or repeated failure to respond may result in suspension of funds, termination of the Contract by the Department, and could impact future funding recommendations.

(f) If additional funds become available through returned or deobligated amounts from an award made under the allocation formula or program income generated from an award made under the allocation formula, the funds may be offered to ESG Subrecipients with active Contracts that have not been amended to extend the Contract Term. Returned or deobligated funds will be offered with priority given to ESG Subrecipients with the highest Expenditure rate as of the most recent Monthly Expenditure Report. However, funds may not be offered to any Subrecipient that returned funds, or from whom funds were deobligated. The Executive Director or designee may increase the Contract of an ESG Subrecipient or authorize a new Contract with a Subrecipient by up to 25% of the original Contract amount. The increase of reallocated funds may not exceed 25% of the initial Contract award, unless approved by the Board.

(g) Funds that have been returned more than once or returned less than three months before the federal Expenditure deadline may be retained by the Department.

(h) The Contract will reflect the Performance Targets that were utilized as selection criteria for the award of funds. Requests to amend Performance Targets may not be submitted less than 60 days prior to the end of the Contract Term. Requests to amend Performance Targets will not be granted if such an amendment would have precluded the award to the Subrecipient.

§7.42 General Administrative Requirements

(a) Subrecipient must have written policies and procedures to ensure that sufficient records are established and maintained to enable a determination that applicable federal and state requirements are met. The written standards must be applied consistently for all Program Participants. Written policies must include, but not be limited to, Inclusive Marketing outlined in §7.10 of this chapter (relating to Inclusive Marketing).

(b) Subrecipient must obtain the correct level of environmental clearance prior to expenditure of funds. Activities for which the Subrecipient does not properly complete the Department's environmental review process are ineligible, and funds will not be reimbursed or will be required to be repaid.

(c) Subrecipient is prohibited from charging occupancy fees for emergency shelter activities supported by funds covered by this subchapter.

(d) If a Private Nonprofit Organization Subrecipient wishes to expand the geographic scope of its emergency shelter activities after Contract execution, an updated certification of approval from the Unit of General Purpose Local Government with jurisdiction over the updated Service Area must be submitted to the Department before funds are spent on emergency shelter in those areas.

(e) Subrecipient must document compliance with the shelter and housing standards per 24 CFR §576.500(j) and (k), including but not limited to, maintaining sufficient construction and shelter inspection reports.

(f) Rental developments must comply with all construction or operational requirements governing the development or program to which funds are comingled, and must comply with local health and safety codes.

(g) Subrecipient may be required to complete Contract orientation training prior to submission of the first Monthly Expenditure Report. Subrecipient must also complete training as requested by the Department in response to Findings or other issues identified while managing the Contract.

(h) Subrecipient must develop and establish written procurement procedures that comply with federal, State, and local procurement requirements. A conflict of interest related to procurement is prohibited by 2 CFR §200.317-318 or Chapter 171 of the Local Government Code, as applicable.

(i) In instances where a potential conflict of interest exists related to a beneficiary of assistance to a Program Participant, Subrecipient must submit a request to the Department to grant an exception to any conflicts prohibited using the procedures at 24 CFR §576.404. The request submitted to the Department must include a disclosure of the nature of the conflict, accompanied by an assurance that there has been public disclosure of the conflict, a description of how the public disclosure was made, and an attorney's opinion that the conflict does not violate State or local law. No funds will be committed to assist a Household until HUD has granted an exception.

(j) Subrecipient will comply with the requirements under 24 CFR §576.409, "Protection for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking."

(1) Compliance with 24 CFR §576.409 includes, but is not limited to, providing two Departmental forms called "Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act" based on HUD form 5380

and "Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking," HUD form 5382, to each of the following:

- (A) All applicants for short- and medium-term rental assistance at the time of admittance or denial;
 - (B) Program Participants of short- and medium-term rental assistance prior to execution of a Rental Assistance Agreement;
 - (C) Program Participants of short- and medium-term rental assistance with any notification of eviction or notification of termination of assistance; and
 - (D) Program Participants of short- and medium-term rental assistance either during an annual Recertification or lease renewal process, whichever is applicable.
- (2) Subrecipient will adopt and follow an Emergency Transfer Plan based on HUD's model Emergency Transfer Plan, pursuant to 24 CFR §5.2005(e). Within three calendar days after Program Participants request transfers, Subrecipient will inform Program Participants of their eligibility under their Emergency Transfer Plan and keep records of all outcomes.

§7.43 Program Income

(a) Program income is gross income received by the Subrecipient or its Affiliates directly generated by a grant supported activity, or earned only as a result of the grant agreement during the grant period.

Program income includes but is not limited to: income from fees for services performed, the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under this award, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under this award, and from payments of principal and interest on loans made with this award, where authorized. Except as outlined in the Contract, Program income does not include interest on federal grant funds, rebates, credits, discounts, refunds, etc. and interest earned on any of them.

(b) Program income received and expended during the Contract Term will count toward meeting the Subrecipient's Matching requirements, per 24 CFR §576.201(f), provided the costs are eligible costs that supplement the program.

(c) Security and utility deposits paid on behalf of a Program Participant should be treated as a grant to the Program Participant. The deposit must remain with the Program Participant, and if returned, is to be returned only to the Program Participant. If the landlord or the utility service provider requires that the deposit be returned to the Subrecipient, Affiliate, Subcontractor, or Subgrantee, the deposit is program income, and must be treated as described in this subsection.

(d) In accounting for program income, the Subrecipient must accurately reflect the receipt of such funds separate from the receipt of federal funds and Subrecipient funds.

(e) Program income that is received after the end of the Contract Term, or not expended within the Contract Term, along with program income received two years following the end of the Contract Term must be returned to the Department within 10 calendar days of receipt. Income directly generated by a grant-supported activity after the two year period is no longer program income and may be retained by the Subrecipient.