

Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)

For More Information
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Program Overview:

The Emergency Shelter Grant Program began in 1987 as part of the McKinney Act administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These monies are distributed to increase the bed capacity of emergency shelters; however, recent program modifications also allow limited expenditures in other program areas, such as prevention.

Eligibility Requirements:

Eligible projects funded under this program include:

- renovation, rehabilitation (repair), or conversion of a building for an emergency shelter;
- maintenance of an emergency shelter (operating expenses, insurance, utilities, and furnishings);
- limited financial assistance for families (rent and utilities);
- delivery of essential social services; and
- expansion or improvement of an existing shelter.

Expenditure limitations in specific areas are as follows:

- up to 30 percent of the funds may be used to provide homeless prevention activities which include financial assistance to eligible families for utility bills, security deposits, or back rent;
- up to 30 percent of the funds may be used to provide essential social services including counseling, case management, employment assistance, health care, drug abuse treatment, assessments, networking, and education; and
- up to 5 percent of the funds may be used for administrative costs. Oregon Housing and Community Services allows two-and-one-half (2½) percent for grantees.

Program Requirements for Lead Agencies

To be eligible for funding, the state must have a Consolidated Plan approved by Housing and Urban Development. The strategy must include a description of the need for assistance and the manner in which the Emergency Shelter Grant Program assistance will complement or expand homeless services already available.

All funds are distributed in non-entitlement areas to lead agencies through a formula based on the number of homeless and at-risk population in each geographic region.

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For More Information

To talk with someone about resources and services in your local area or county, contact your **local community action agency** at: <http://www.caporegon.org/members.htm>

OHCS is the state housing finance agency, providing financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for lower income Oregonians. The agency also administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless and energy assistance community service programs.