



STATE OF ARKANSAS
Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA)

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
and
Request for Applications

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program
Program Year 2026-2027

September 23, 2026

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A. Overview

The Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) is pleased to announce the availability of Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funds for Program Year 2026-2027. The ESG Program is a federal block grant authorized by subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In Arkansas, ESG is administered by ADFA.

Proposals are invited from non-profit organizations and local governments that provide eligible ESG activities to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, or at risk of becoming homeless, within an Arkansas Continuum of Care. Eligible activities and requirements are described in 24 CFR Part 576 and the ADFA ESG Policy and Procedures Manual. Applicants should review both documents before starting an application.

How to Apply

All applications, including all required attachments, must be submitted through the ADFA Programs Portal by the deadline. Applicants without an ADFA Provider Number must request one before the deadline (see ESG Program Provider Setup Form on the ADFA website).

No paper copies or emailed applications will be accepted.

Only one (1) application per agency will be accepted.

Application Deadline

Complete applications are due by **5 pm CST on October 23, 2026**. Date and time are firm; no applications will be accepted after the deadline. Applicants should submit early to avoid risk from unanticipated delays or portal issues.

Questions & Technical Assistance

Questions regarding this NOFA, the application process, or requests for alternative formats for persons with disabilities should be directed to **arkansasESG@horne.com**. Questions should be submitted no later than 5 pm October 16, 2026 to ensure a response before the application deadline.

B. Funding Available

Funding Period

The funding period for Program Year 2026-2027 ESG activities is March 1, 2027 - February 29, 2028. Draw requests are due by close of business on the 10th of each month. Requests may be denied if expenses are ineligible, noncompliant with ESG requirements, or lack required documentation as specified in the ESG Policies and Procedures.

ADFA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to extend grant agreements when needed to address program needs, state priorities, priority work areas, or the continuation of high-performing contracts. Extensions are not guaranteed and are subject to funding availability, applicable federal and state requirements, satisfactory performance, and any required ADFA Board approval, including approval of an increased budget. ADFA will document the basis for each extension in writing.

The application, Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), scoring criteria, instructions, policies, procedures, and related ESG materials have been developed using the most current information available at the time of publication. From time to time, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and ADFA may

issue additional guidance, clarifications, policy updates, waivers, interpretations, or other requirements affecting the ESG Program. ADFA reserves the right to modify, update, clarify, or supplement application materials, requirements, processes, scoring criteria, funding priorities, timelines, and related program documents as necessary to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements and to support effective program administration. All updates, modifications, and clarifications will be issued through an ADFA Information Bulletin, amendment, or other official notice and will become part of the ESG application requirements upon issuance.

Maximum & Minimum Request

The maximum amount of ESG funds a single applicant may request is \$250,000. The suggested minimum request range is \$20,000–\$25,000; a lower amount may be requested if that is the minimum needed to operate the project. Maximum funding requests may be limited based on Continuum of Care allocation and activity priorities.

No more than 60% of the total funding available for annual distribution through this competitive application will be available for street outreach and shelter operation activities.

Eligible Program Components

Component	Purpose
Street Outreach (SO)	Engage unsheltered homeless individuals and connect them to shelter, housing, or critical services.
Emergency Shelter (ES)	Increase access to, or improve the quality of, temporary emergency shelters.
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	Rapidly move homeless individuals and families into permanent housing and help them achieve stability.
Homelessness Prevention (HP)	Provide at-risk individuals and families with financial and housing stabilization assistance to prevent homelessness.
HMIS	Offset the cost of required data collection and reporting.
Administration (Admin)	Offset the cost of certain program administrative expenses.

C. NOFA Schedule

September 28th, 2028: Application opens.

5 pm October 16, 2026: Deadline for applicants to submit questions.

5 pm on October 23, 2026: APPLICATION DEADLINE.

January, 2026 (tentative): ADFA funding determinations announced.

March 1, 2027: Program Year begins; funds are considered obligated as of the date of the grant agreement.

D. Eligible Applicants

Applicants must meet **all** the following requirements to be eligible for ESG funding:

- Applicant is a non-profit organization or a unit of local government.
- Applicant complies with ESG guidelines and applicable state and federal policies and procedures, including federal and state non-discrimination and equal opportunity laws.
- Applicant has established standard accounting practices, including internal controls, fiscal accounting procedures, and the ability to track agency and program budgets by revenue source and expense.
- ADFA reserves discretion when audit, IRS, monitoring, or compliance issues remain unresolved.
- Applicant is actively registered in SAM.gov and holds a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- Applicant has obtained (or has requested, prior to the deadline) an ADFA Provider Number.
- Applicant can demonstrate prior experience serving individuals and families experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, and can evidence staff expertise in case management.
- Applicant participates (or will participate) in HMIS, or a comparable database for victim service providers, and in the Coordinated Entry process for its Continuum of Care.
- Applicant certifies that, if awarded, it will maintain updated ESG-specific policies and procedures consistent with ADFA's ESG Program Policies and Procedures.
- Applicant has the organizational capacity and cash flow to administer the program on a reimbursement basis.
- Applicant maintains an active governing board with at least three (3) members that meets no less than quarterly.
- Applicant employs an Executive Director (or equivalent chief executive officer) and at least one paid staff member.

E. Funding Priorities & Scoring Criteria

ADFA will score 2026-27 ESG Sub-Grant Applications according to the criteria below, for a maximum of **100 points**. Applicants should complete the Self-Score column on the application before submitting; ADFA will complete the final score during its review. The full scoring table is reproduced in Appendix A.

- **Narrative** - up to **15 points**. Applicants only answer questions relevant to the activities they propose. Narrative responses are scored across five areas: Program Design & Service Delivery, Community Need & Target Population, Housing Stability & Outcomes, Partnerships & System Coordination, and Equity, Lived Experience & Client-Centered Services. Reviewers assess whether responses are clear, specific, evidence-based, feasible, and aligned with ESG objectives.
- **Budget** - up to **20 points**. Reviewers evaluate whether budget totals are consistent throughout the application and budget workbook, whether the required 100% match is clearly documented, whether an organizational budget and allocation methodology are provided, and whether proposed costs are reasonable, necessary, and eligible under ESG requirements.
- **Programmatic Need** - up to **25 points**. Reviewers evaluate documented community need, service gaps, geographic coverage, and alignment with ESG priorities. Points may be awarded based on

counties served, Point-in-Time (PIT) count data, shelter demand, waitlists, underserved populations or geographic areas, requests that prioritize Rapid Re-Housing and Homelessness Prevention activities and demonstrated housing outcomes or program impact supported by HMIS or comparable data.

- **Capacity & Past Performance** - up to **40 points**. Applicants must score at least 30 of the 40 possible points in this category to be considered for funding, regardless of overall application score. Reviewers evaluate prior ESG expenditure rates, timeliness and quality of reporting and reimbursement submissions, audit results and financial management history, cash flow capacity, staffing stability, organizational resources, federal grant performance, monitoring history, and community partnerships.
- **HMIS/DV-Comparable Database** - **0 points**. Active use of HMIS or a comparable database for victim service providers is a threshold requirement for funding eligibility and is not scored.

F. Eligible Activities

ESG funds may be used for the following program components, consistent with 24 CFR Part 576:

Street Outreach (24 CFR 576.101)

Essential services necessary to engage unsheltered homeless people and connect them to emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, including engagement activities, case management, emergency health and mental health services, and transportation.

Emergency Shelter (24 CFR 576.102)

Essential services for individuals and families in emergency shelters (case management, childcare, education services, employment assistance, health and legal services, life skills training, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and transportation), as well as renovation and shelter operating costs (maintenance, insurance, utilities, furnishings, food, and supplies).

Rapid Re-Housing (24 CFR 576.104)

Housing relocation and stabilization services and short- or medium-term rental assistance to help a homeless individual or family move quickly into permanent housing and achieve stability.

Homelessness Prevention (24 CFR 576.103)

Housing relocation and stabilization services and short- or medium-term rental assistance to prevent an at-risk individual or family from becoming homeless. Assisted households must have income below 30% of Area Median Income (AMI) and meet the at-risk criteria in 24 CFR 576.103.

HMIS (24 CFR 576.107)

Costs of participating in the Homeless Management Information System or a comparable database for victim service providers, including hardware, software licenses, technical support, data entry and analysis, training, and reporting. HMIS costs may not exceed 5% of the draw request.

Administration (24 CFR 576.108)

Costs of administering the ESG award, including staff salaries and related costs, preparing and monitoring agreements, preparing reports, and coordinating the resolution of audit and monitoring findings. Monthly administration requests may not exceed 1% of the draw request.

Renovation

Renovation projects exceeding \$250,000 may not be eligible. Major rehabilitation (cost exceeds 75% of the building's pre-rehabilitation value) or conversion (cost exceeds 75% of the building's post-conversion value) carries a minimum 10-year period of use; other renovation carries a minimum 3-year period of use.

G. Match Requirements

The ESG Program requires a 100% (1 to 1) match for each grant dollar awarded. Match may be other Federal monies, State funds, local government funds, corporate gifts, fundraising proceeds, private cash donations, or in-kind contributions. Match contributions must be expended during the ESG program period and may not be incurred prior to the effective date established by HUD for the applicable ESG grant allocation.

Funds pledged as match for ESG may not be pledged as match for any other grant and must not have been obtained by citing the ESG grant as a match.

Valuation of Non-Cash Contributions

Contribution Type	Valuation
Unskilled/skilled labor	Prevailing minimum wage
Professional services (e.g., pro bono legal, waived medical/dental fees)	Professional services at the volunteer's normal professional rate
Donated real property	Fair market value, if donated after HUD signs the grant agreement and used for an ESG activity

H. Application Checklist

Each item below must be provided through the ADFA Programs Portal. Obtain necessary signatures and forms early, as some documents require lead time. All submitted documents must be the most recent available, from the most recently completed fiscal year. If partnering with another entity, each entity must submit all required documentation (audit, financial statements, etc.).

Please attach the following items:

- ☐ Bylaws and/or constitution
- ☐ Articles of Incorporation; check this box of public agency: ☐
- ☐ HMIS Contract, showing software and term dates
- ☐ Organizational Chart showing board, staff, and staff involved with operation of ESG
- ☐ Board of Directors list and 3 most recent meeting minutes
- ☐ Board of Directors Resolution committing and guaranteeing the required match funding
- ☐ Evidence of financial accountability such as a recent audit or annual accounting with balance sheets
- ☐ Proposed ESG Admin Plan
- ☐ New Applicants Not Currently Participating in a Continuum of Care: CoC Chairperson Letter confirming outreach and coordination with applicable CoC
- ☐ Confidentiality Policy
- ☐ Discharge Policy
- ☐ Drug-Free Workplace Policy
- ☐ Organizational Budget
- ☐ Budget Line-Item Workbook
- ☐ Case Management and Life Skill Coaches Cost Reasonableness

- ☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- ☐ Verification of active SAM.gov registration
- ☐ IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter, if a Non-Profit Organization
- ☐ Two most recent independent audits, or Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and most recently filed IRS Form 990 if an independent audit has never been conducted
- ☐ Partnership Documentation or executed MOU, on partner letterhead, signed, and clearly stating the item or service the partner brings to the project
- ☐ Minimum Habitability Standards for Emergency Shelters inspection, if requesting Shelter funding
- ☐ Program Policies and Procedures Certification

Additional documents needed for rehabilitation activities only:

- ☐ Bids - at least 2 competitive bids for renovation/rehabilitation activities, if applicable
- ☐ Copy of the purchase or lease agreement(s) for the building(s) currently used as a shelter and/or office space, if applicable
- ☐ Shelter pictures of any renovation activities (inside and/or outside)

Appendix A- ESG Application Scoring Criteria

Criterion	Maximum Points	Applicant Self-Score	ADFA Score
Narrative	15		
Budget	20		
Programmatic Need	25		
Capacity (minimum 30 required regardless of overall score)	40		
Total Possible Points	100		