****

**Invitation to Apply for 2020 Funding**

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services** **and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Funds**

**Attention:**

Colorado Springs non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public agencies that serve low-income residents within city limits

You are invited to submit an application to the Community Development Division for 2020 CDBG Public Services and ESG funding. Completed applications are due no later than midnight on March 20, 2020, and must be submitted electronically through [Neighborly.](https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/coloradospringsco/Participant)

**Funding Source**

As the grantee of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Colorado Springs Community Development Division administers funding to successful local applicants (subgrantees) for one program year. The funds come from two separate federal programs:

1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are provided by HUD in order to improve local communities by providing decent housing, improved infrastructure, public facilities and services, and improved economic opportunities.
2. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds are provided by HUD in order to assist individuals and families to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness.

Federal law requires that these grant funds primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons ([80% AMI or below](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2019/2019summary.odn)).

**Application window:** February 24, 2020 – March 20, 2020

**CDBG Public Services application link:** [**https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/coloradospringsco/Participant**](https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/coloradospringsco/Participant)

**ESG application link:** [**https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/coloradospringsco/Participant**](https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/coloradospringsco/Participant)

Applicants must create a username and password after accessing the **unique link** above. Neighborly automatically saves work and applicants may log off and log in at any time to continue working on their applications. Applicants must click “Submit” **before** the deadline to submit applications for review. Applications will be locked for editing at midnight on **March 20, 2020**.

**LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

**Funding Information**

Once awarded, 2020 grant funds will *reimburse* subgrantees for eligible project expenses made from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

The award minimum for both CDBG Public Services and ESG is $25,000.

Applicants may submit more than one application for either or both programs. Please submit one application per project. Applications selected for funding may receive less than the requested amount, depending on the number of applications received and the available funding.

**Funding Priorities**

The City’s draft 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan is the guiding framework for all program funding. For 2020 CDBG Public Services and ESG, we are soliciting project proposals under the following priority areas:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Approximate Funds Available for 2020 Application** | |
| **CDBG Public Services** | **Emergency Solutions Grant** |
| $250,000 | $80,000 |
| **Priority Areas** | |
| 1. **Housing Stability**   Programs that serve households with vital services related to obtaining and keeping safe and stable housing, including, but not limited to:   * + Housing counseling or navigation services   + Eviction prevention   + Childcare   + Food access   + Aging in place strategies      1. **Key populations:** Meet any of the goals outlined above while primarily serving families with children, seniors, **or** households making 30% or below area median income. | 1. **Homelessness Prevention**   Housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to prevent the individual or family from moving to an emergency shelter, a place not meant for human habitation, or another place described in paragraph (1) of the homeless definition.   1. **Rapid Re-Housing**   Housing relocation and stabilization services and/or short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help individuals or families living in shelters or in places not meant for human habitation move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.   1. **Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)**   Funds participation in the HMIS collection and analyses of data on individuals and families who are homeless and at-risk of homelessness. *Only the PPCoC HMIS-lead is eligible to apply for HMIS funding.*  2020 ESG **Emergency Shelter** funds are reserved for low-barrier shelter operations. Agencies receiving those funds must still submit application info via **Neighborly** for contract set-up.  All other **Emergency Shelter** and **Street Outreach** operations proposals can be submitted as CDBG Public Services applications. |

The remaining CDBG and ESG allocations will be used for adding critical shelter capacity, facilities and infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitation, administrative expenses, and other activities as will be identified in the 2020 Action Plan.

**Other Decision Criteria**

In addition to priority alignment, City staff and the external review committee will consider factors such as

* community need and benefits;
* financial feasibility;
* organizational capacity;
* match commitment;
* previous performance; and
* project readiness.

Depending on the number and nature of applications received, the City may elect to reserve a portion of the funds available and reopen the application process during the year.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Eligible Applicants**

* Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations
* Faith-based organizations
* Public agencies

**All** applicants must have a DUNS Number and be registered on the federal System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

**All** proposed ESG projects must have a 1:1 match.

**Eligible Activities**

**CDBG Public Services**

All CDBG projects must meet a National Objective as outlined in 24 CFR 570 Part 208.

Public Services generally refer to projects that provide social services and/or other direct assistance to individuals or households. **(Direct cash payments to clients are not an eligible activity.)** Examples include: senior services, programs that serve persons with disabilities, homeless services, legal services, youth services, education programs, victims of domestic violence services, crime prevention, substance abuse services, fair housing support, abused and neglected child services, health services, energy conservation, or recreation, after school and child enrichment.

**Applications for homeless services otherwise eligible under the ESG program must comply with the City of Colorado Springs ESG Written Standards**.

**ESG**

All projects must fall within an eligible ESG activity category (24 CFR Part 576) and serve beneficiaries who meet the HUD definition of “homeless” or “at-risk of homelessness.” The City has identified the following activities as eligible for this application: Rapid Re-housing, Homeless Prevention, and HMIS.

In addition, ESG applicants are responsible for reviewing and understanding the City of Colorado Springs Written Standards. Please send all questions to Naomi Clark at [naomi.clark@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:naomi.clark@coloradosprings.gov) and/or 719-385-6609.

**Technical Assistance**

CDD staff and a Neighborly representative will host public workshops on federal grant basics, program guidelines, technical assistance for the 2020 CDBG Public Services and ESG applications on the following dates.

**Technical Workshop CDBG**

**March 9th 2020 10:00am-11:30pm**

**City Administration Building room 102**

**30 S. Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs CO 80903**

**Technical Workshop ESG**

**March 10th 2020 1:00pm-2:30pm**

**City Administration Building Room 102**

**30 S. Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903**

These workshops will cover important information on the types of eligible projects along with rules and regulations governing the program. **Attendance at the Technical Workshop is required for all applicants.** Attendance by at least one representative from each applicant organization will help project eligibility and ensure critical technical assistance about the [Neighborly application](https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/coloradospringsco/Participant) and the CDBG and ESG programs before an agency invests the time and resources necessary to apply.

For any questions about the application, workshops or program eligibility, and/or technical assistance please contact Naomi Clark at [naomi.clark@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:naomi.clark@coloradosprings.gov) and/or 719-385-6609.