

HOMELESS

Homeless Needs

1. Identify actions taken to address needs of homeless persons.

Program Year 3 CAPER Homeless Needs response:

The local CoC has conducted a gaps analysis study to determine what services homeless individuals need and are unable to get. Also each year, there is a Point-in-Time count done both in January and July to determine the number of homeless individuals. At this time, information is given out to the individuals in regards to shelters and other services available and the people are asked what services they need. If the person falls into one of the special populations (youth, veteran, disabled, etc.), they are referred to an agency that handles that population. The Human Services Department also works with local Code Enforcement in order to get individuals from outside sleeping locations to other locations meant for habitation.

2. Identify actions to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

Program Year 3 CAPER Homeless Needs response:

Each program that is funded out of ESG or CoC NOFA funds provides case management to ensure that clients have a smooth transition. For those who are living on the streets, a street outreach team has been established to assist clients to get off the streets into permanent housing situations. The team is comprised of people who work with funded agencies that are able to utilize their resources to help the homeless person/family obtain housing.

3. Identify new Federal resources obtained from Homeless SuperNOFA.

Program Year 3 CAPER Homeless Needs response:

CoC agencies applied for and obtained new funding in the amount of \$116,440. These funds were made available to fund a permanent supportive housing program for veteran families that will be run by Shelter Care Ministries.

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

1. Identify actions taken to prevent homelessness.

Program Year 3 CAPER Specific Housing Prevention Elements response:

The Homeless Prevention & Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP-ESG) will be administered by two local agencies in the upcoming year and the Homeless Prevention program, administered by the City of Rockford Human Services Department, works with families and individuals to stop the process of eviction preventing families from becoming homeless. In the upcoming year, the Human Services Department will be implementing a year-long curriculum for families in their Family & Community Development (FCD) program which will increase families' self-sufficiency. Curriculum will include financial literacy, landlord-tenant issues, goal setting, accessing mainstream resources, job preparation, and more. Families involved with the eviction prevention program will also be required to take a financial literacy class to help them with budgeting and money management skills.

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

1. Identify actions to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families (including significant subpopulations such as those living on the streets).

Program Year 3 CAPER ESG response:

The CoC and ESG programs fund both 24-hour emergency shelters and transitional housing programs. These programs target a wide variety of homeless persons including those with special needs such as substance abuse, victims of domestic violence, families and youth. The City of Rockford also funded an agency to provide legal services to prevent the loss of housing by those imminently at-risk of homelessness.

2. Assessment of Relationship of ESG Funds to Goals and Objectives
 - a. Evaluate progress made in using ESG funds to address homeless and homeless prevention needs, goals, and specific objectives established in the Consolidated Plan.

Program Year 3 CAPER ESG response:

Performance Measure 1: Increase the access or availability of the suitable living environment through operations of emergency shelters.

- ESG has provided funds for Remedies Domestic Violence Shelter, Shelter Care Ministries family shelter, MELD for pregnant and parenting teens/young adults (18-24), and CHASI's (Motherhouse) Crisis Nursery. Each of these facilities provided emergency shelter services to those that need it.

Performance Measure 2: Increase the access or availability of the suitable living environment through the provision of transitional housing and services.

- ESG provided funding for Shelter Care Ministries and MELD which both provide transitional housing services. Shelter Care Ministries serves families that are often not housed in emergency programs

and MELD provides transitional housing to young mothers. Services, including case management, are provided to everyone in the programs helping to ensure that the clients are more self-sufficient at the end of their time in the program and ready to secure permanent housing of their own.

Performance Measure 3: Increase the access or availability of the suitable living environment by providing essential services designed to improve the quality of life of persons & communities

- ESG funded two programs for prevention services. Careers, Etc and Prairie State Legal were funded to provide services for clients in danger of homelessness. Careers, Etc. provides a job training curriculum to homeless or "at-risk" clients who do not have employment. Prairie State used the funding to provide legal services to persons who were facing evictions in hopes of helping them to retain their housing.

Performance Measure 4: Address the need for affordable decent housing through homeless prevention activities and help low-income persons preserve their housing and/or make it more affordable.

- There is still a great need for affordable, decent housing within the city of Rockford. The prevention services provided by Prairie State Legal are vital to the low-income population as many of them are victimized by landlords who put them through illegal evictions that they have no way to fight on their own. The City of Rockford Human Services Department is also looking to implement a program in the upcoming year to provide more tenant-landlord mediation services and provide better information to the low-income people who are seeking services, so that they are better able to help themselves.
- b. Detail how ESG projects are related to implementation of comprehensive homeless planning strategy, including the number and types of individuals and persons in households served with ESG funds.

Program Year 3 CAPER ESG response:

Due to the changes with the HEARTH regulations, the ESG programs have begun working more closely with the HUD Funded CoC programs and following the goals of the strategic plan of the CoC. This will ensure more consistency amongst the programs that are funded. It will also be easier to monitor that agencies are serving the number of people who they are supposed to be serving and providing the proper services.

3. Matching Resources

- a. Provide specific sources and amounts of new funding used to meet match as required by 42 USC 11375(a)(1), including cash resources, grants, and staff salaries, as well as in-kind contributions such as the value of a building or lease, donated materials, or volunteer time.

Program Year 3 CAPER ESG response:

Agency	Amount of match	Source of Match
Remedies	\$20,000	Private donors
MELD	\$215,789	Youth Services Network
Careers, Etc	\$35,672	United Way
Prairie State Legal Serv.	\$15,750	Lawyers Trust Fund
Shelter Care Ministries	\$67,498	DHS & Episcopal Charities
CHASI	\$11,122	In-Kind—Volunteer hours

4. State Method of Distribution

- a. States must describe their method of distribution and how it rated and selected its local government agencies and private nonprofit organizations acting as sub-recipients.

Program Year 3 CAPER ESG response:

N/A

5. Activity and Beneficiary Data

- a. Completion of attached Emergency Shelter Grant Program Performance Chart or other reports showing ESGP expenditures by type of activity. Also describe any problems in collecting, reporting, and evaluating the reliability of this information.

Program Year 3 CAPER ESG response:

Agency	Budget Category	Expended	Grant End Date	Concerns
Prairie State Legal Services	Prevention and administration	\$16,476.46	7/31/2013	
Remedies	Shelter and administration	\$24,937.26	7/31/2013	
Meld	Shelter and administration	\$15,415.75	7/31/2013	
Careers, Etc.	Prevention and administration	\$10,007.49	7/31/2013	
Children's Home and Aid	Shelter and administration	\$10,666.29	7/31/2013	
Shelter Care Ministries	Shelter and administration	11,122.20	7/31/2013	
City of Rockford	Administration	3,474.35	7/31/2013	

- b. Homeless Discharge Coordination

- i. As part of the government developing and implementing a homeless discharge coordination policy, ESG homeless prevention funds may be used to assist very-low income individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless after being released from publicly funded institutions such as health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or corrections institutions or programs.

Program Year 3 CAPER ESG response:

MELD uses some of the funds for emergency shelters and transitional housing for youth aging out of the foster care or other youth facilities. Youth coming out of these systems usually do not have a stable "home" to return too and they do not have the financial means or the life skills necessary to obtain and maintain a residence of their own. MELD provides them with both housing and the skills that they will need.

- c. Explain how your government is instituting a homeless discharge coordination policy, and how ESG homeless prevention funds are being used in this effort.

Program Year 3 CAPER ESG response:

There is a discharge planning committee that is working on policies for both CoC and ESG programs. There are discharge policies in place for our mental health and drug addictions programs, foster care, and county jail. However, the committee is still trying to put policies in place with our local hospital systems and the Department of Corrections.