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## *Emergency Shelter Grant Program*

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) administers the federally-funded Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program to increase the number and quality of emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities for homeless individuals and families, to operate these facilities and provide essential social services, and to help prevent homelessness.

The State ESG funding is allocated to areas outside the CDBG entitlement communities that receive their own ESG funding directly from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These entitlement communities are Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville-Davidson County. THDA sets aside 5% of the ESG allocation for administrative and planning expenses. The \$100,000 of the State allocation which does not require a match is awarded to the network of housing agencies established by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities to provide services to clients being discharged from medical and mental health facilities. THDA then allocates 52% of the remaining ESG funds on a formula basis to the 11 CDBG entitlement communities that do not receive a direct ESG allocation, but are expected to address homelessness through the "Continuum of Care" described in their Consolidated Plan. These cities are Bristol, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Cleveland, Franklin, Jackson, Johnson City, Kingsport, Morristown, Murfreesboro and Oak Ridge. The remaining 48% of the ESG funds are awarded on a competitive basis to non-profit organizations. An applicant for the competitive round must apply for at least \$35,000 and may apply for a maximum of \$75,000 in ESG funding. THDA anticipates an ESG allocation in 2009 of approximately \$1.4 million dollars.

The ESG program is governed by Title 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 576. The objectives of the ESG program are:

1. To help improve the quality of emergency shelters for the homeless;
2. To help meet the costs of operating and maintaining emergency shelters;
3. To provide essential services so that homeless individuals have access to the assistance they need to improve their situation; and
4. To provide emergency intervention assistance to prevent homelessness.

ESG funds cannot be utilized for permanent housing projects. A person is considered homeless only when he/she resides in one of the places described below:

1. In places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings or on the street;
2. In an emergency shelter;
3. In transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters;



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4. In any of the above places but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution;
5. Is being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing or their housing has been condemned by housing officials and is no longer considered meant for human habitation;
6. Is being discharged within a week from an institution in which the person has been a resident for more that 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing; or
7. Is fleeing a domestic violence housing situation and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.

**Exclusion:** The term "homeless" or "homeless individual" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a State law.

ESG activities are focused on helping meet the needs of emergency homeless shelters and programs in under-served areas of Tennessee outside of Entitlement Cities. THDA is particularly interested in developing and expanding shelter programs in rural areas that lack ready access to other homeless funds. THDA is also placing a priority on shelter programs serving families and on transitional living shelters that provide an array of supportive services in addition to living arrangements for a period of at least six months.

More information and a list of recent awardees is found at [www.thda.org](http://www.thda.org). From the index click Community Programs, then Emergency Shelter Grants tab.

**Questions and/or comments may be directed to:**

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