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Missouri Housing
Development Commission

Application Training

Housing Emergency Solutions Program (HESP)

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Agenda

- HESP Program Guidance
  - HESP Program Overview
  - HESP Program Timeline
  - Program Requirements

HESP Application Guidance
  - Application Overview
  - Application Workflow
  - Application Evaluation
  - Application Submission
  - Contact Information

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HESP Program Guidance

Part 1

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Program Overview

- The HESP program is solely administered by the Missouri Housing Development Commission.

- The HEARTH Act of 2009 amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, revising the Emergency Shelter Grant program, which is now called the Housing Emergency Solutions Program.

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Program Overview

1. Engage homeless individuals and families living on the street
2. Improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families
3. Help operate these shelters
4. Provide essential services to shelter residents
5. Rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families
6. Prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless

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Program Overview

- Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA): $2,700,000.00
- Allocation Plan:

Missouri Continua of Care	Distribution Percentage
Missouri Balance of State	46.14%
Joplin	7.59%
Kansas City/Independence/Lee's Summit/Jackson County	8.01%
Springfield	8.77%
St. Charles	7.19%
St. Joseph	8.25%
St. Louis City	7.94%
St. Louis County	6.11%
Total Amount to be Funded by Geographic Allocation	$2,700,000.00

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Program Timeline

2027 HESP Timeline	Relevant Dates
Application Available on Grant Interface:	March 3, 2026
Application Deadline:	April 3, 2026, at 11:59 PM
Grant Term Begins:	November 1, 2026
Grant Term Ends:	October 31, 2027
Closeout Due:	December 1, 2027, at 11:59 PM

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Program Requirements

- **Eligible Funding Components**
  - **Street Outreach**
    - Intended to meet the immediate needs of unsheltered homeless individuals and families by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, and/or critical health services
  - **Emergency Shelter**
    - Intended to increase the quantity and quality of temporary shelter provided to homeless individuals and families by paying for operating and essential services expenses
  - **Homelessness Prevention**
    - Intended to prevent households from becoming homeless through rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services

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Program Requirements

- **Eligible Funding Components Continued**
  - **Rapid Rehousing**
    - Intended to quickly move homeless individuals and families to permanent housing through rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services
  - **HMIS**
    - Intended to support HESP recipients' participation in the HMIS collection and data analysis of households that are homeless or at risk of homelessness
  - **Administration**
    - Intended to support HESP Grantees' costs incurred to meet the grant requirements

Review the Current Desk Guide for more thorough eligibility details

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Program Requirements

- **Participation in HMIS/Comparable Database System**
  - Data on all persons served and all activities assisted under HESP must be entered into the HMIS system designated by the CoC for the area in which HESP activities will take place
  - Victim service providers or legal services providers may use a **comparable database**
  - Comparable databases must be approved by the HMIS-lead agency for the CoC and meet all requirements listed in the Comparable Database Manual

Program Requirements

- **100% Match Requirement**
  - Per [24 CFR 576.201](#), grantees must match their total Housing Emergency Solutions Program award consisting of documented non-McKinney resources. Matching funds must be used in accordance with all requirements that apply to HESP funds (e.g., documentation, participant eligibility, eligible costs).
    - Contributions that have been or will be counted as satisfying a matching requirement of another federal grant may not count as satisfying the match of the Housing Emergency Solutions Program award
    - Contributions used to match a previous HESP award may not be used to match a subsequent HESP award
    - Funds must be expended within the HESP grant period

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Program Requirements

- **Continuum of Care Involvement**
  - HESP grantees are required to be involved with the Continuum of Care (CoC) which HESP funds are to be spent. These meetings bring together many different agencies working toward the improvement of housing and ending homelessness in the state of Missouri.

- **Coordinated Entry Participation**
  - In accordance with 24 CFR 576.400(d), each funded non-victim services provider within the Continuum of Care's area must use the coordinated entry system developed by that CoC to ensure consistent screening, assessment, prioritization and referral of program participants.

Program Requirements

- **Homelessness Participation Requirement**
  - HESP Grantees must provide for the participation of not less than one homeless individual or formerly homeless individual on their board of directors or other equivalent policy-making entity.
    - To the extent that the entity considers and makes policies and decisions regarding any facilities, services, or other assistance that receive funding under HESP.
  - To the maximum extent practicable, HESP grantees must involve homeless individuals and families in maintaining and operating facilities assisted under HESP, in providing services assisted under HESP, and in providing services for occupants of facilities assisted under HESP.
    - This involvement may include employment or volunteer services.

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HESP Application Guidance

Part 2

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Application Overview

Key Resources

- Application Guidance

- Previous funding year Desk Guide & forms

- All forms are available on the MHDC website

Application Overview

Eligible Applicants

- All applicants must be:
  - A non-profit entity with capacity to administer the funds directly
  - Be eligible to conduct business in Missouri
  - Be an entity in good standing with the state of Missouri
  - Provide housing or housing services
- Funding will not be awarded to individuals
- Funding may not be sub-granted

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Application Overview

Requirements

- Applicants may only submit one application per Missouri Continuum of Care

- Applicants applying for emergency shelter funds may only request funds for the county in which the shelter is located

- Eligible to apply for up to $50,000 per grant application
    - If agency serves multiple counties, may apply for up to $50,000 per county up to $100,000 total

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Application Overview

Application Interface

- All applications will be submitted on Grant Interface
- Applicants must respond to each question on the application
- Each answer should be clear and concise and not refer to any other area of the application
- Certain sections will become available and required depending on the applicants answers
- Does not need to be completed all at once

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Application Workflow

1. Initial Applicant Details
   - Agency Details
   - Application Type
   - Housing Emergency Solutions Grant History
   - Financial Management Details
   - MHDC and Federal Funding Regulations

2. Letter of Support #1
3. Letter of Support #2
4. Component Selection
   - Total Award Request

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Application Workflow

5. Funding Component Details
   - Request Breakdown
   - Program Structure
   - Clients and Need
   - Written Program Standards

6. Attachments
   - Agency Budget Form
   - Match Summary Form
   - Most Recent Audit Report
   - Homeless Participation Certification
   - Certificate of Good Standing
   - Agency Financial Policies
   - 501(c)(3) Verification

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Application Workflow

7. Follow-Up Sections *(based on responses in earlier sections)*
   - Comparable Database Details
   - Funding History
   - Other Emergency Solutions Grant Details

8. Citizen Outreach Contact Information

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Application Evaluation

- Funds awarded will be based on a scoring system for applications, that may assess things such as:
  - The completeness and organization of the grant application
  - The extent to which the applicant demonstrates an understanding of the program regulations
  - Past performance in the Housing Emergency Solutions Program
  - Strength of program design and implementation strategy
  - Coordination and participation with local Continuum of Care and Coordinated Entry
  - Consistency with local need, collaboration with local plans and service delivery strategies
  - Demonstrated ability to move homeless individuals into housing or demonstrated ability to increase housing stability of individuals and families at risk of homelessness
 - Extent to which programs result in permanent housing outcomes for clients

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Application Submission

Electronic Application

- Complete application submissions are done through the Grant Interface: https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=mhdc

- The application does not have to be completed immediately, it may be started and saved to resume later by clicking the "Save Application" button

- Applicants may also delete an application by clicking "Abandon Request." This feature is permanent.
  - If "Abandon Request" is selected, the application will be deleted and the applicant will need to start over in order to resume

- Once the application is complete and ready to be submitted, click "Submit Application."
  - Once an application is submitted it cannot be edited
  - An auto-response email will confirm receipt of application

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Application Submission

Grant Interface

- Applicants who previously received an award from MHDC will already have a profile created.
  - Use your email to reset your password.
  - Contact Grant administrator with any further issues.

- Google Chrome is the recommended internet browser.

- For further guidance on logging in please visit MHDC website for the log in guide instructions.
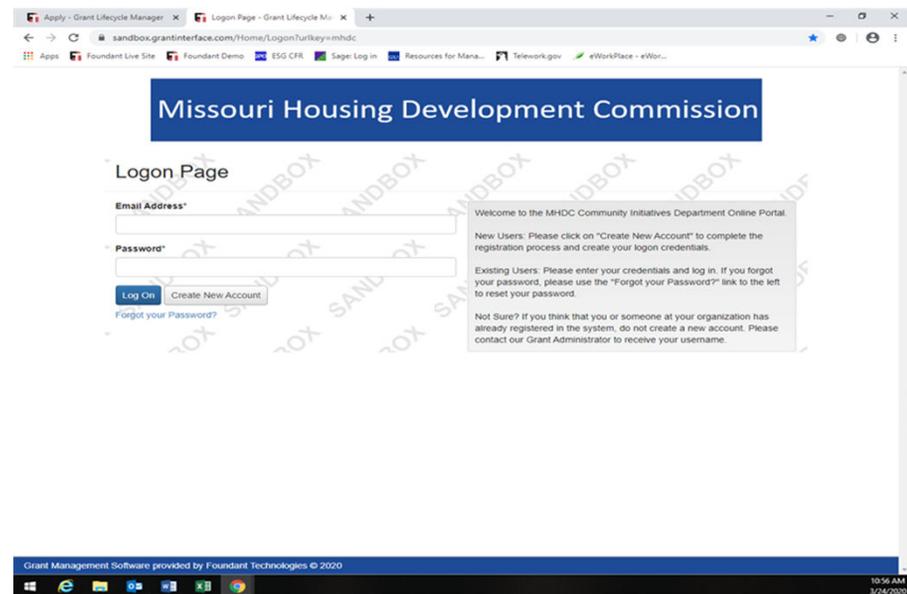
grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?URL=mhdc

Application Submission

Deadline

- **Due 11:59 p.m. Monday April 3, 2026**

- Failure to submit fully completed applications by the above date will result in a point reduction when the application is evaluated

- Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for funding

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Resources

- MHDC Housing Emergency Solutions Program Information Page
  - https://mhdc.com/programs/hud-programs/housing-emergency-solutions-program/

Contact Information

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