HOUSING EMERGNECY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM

Application Guidance

2027

DUE DATE:
Friday, April 3rd, 2026
11:59 p.m.

Missouri Housing Development Commission
https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=mhdc

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose:

The Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) hereby notifies interested organizations of the availability of Housing Emergency Solutions Program funds to provide housing assistance to homeless or nearly homeless Missourians in an amount up to **$2,700,000.00 (estimated)**. The funds will be allocated in a competitive process in accordance with the Allocation Plan. The allocation of FY2026 funds will be awarded for program year 2027.

Deadline:

Applications for funding will be accepted by MHDC until **11:59 p.m. Friday April 3, 2026.** All applications received after the deadline will not be considered for funding. Decisions regarding funding of proposals are estimated to be made in July 2026.

Requirements:

- Applicants must be a non-profit entity with capacity to administer the funds directly, eligible to conduct business in Missouri, be an entity in good standing with the state of Missouri and provide housing or housing services. Funding will not be awarded to individuals. Funding may not be sub-granted.
- All applications must be in compliance with this guidance and be submitted online in the Grant Interface software at https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=mhdc.
- Applications must comply with the following restrictions on funding requests:
    - Direct non-profits are eligible to apply for up to $50,000 per grant application
    - Direct non-profits that serve multiple counties within a Continuum of Care may apply for up to $50,000 per county up to $100,000

Contact Information:

If there are any questions, please contact:

Housing Program Administrator
Brendan Irving
Phone: (816) 759-2875
Email: CP.Programs@mhdc.com

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SECTION I – Applicant Requirements

Establishment of Funds

These funds are established by Subtitle B of Title IV of the Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Public Law 100-77, Public Law 100-628) as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) which authorized the Emergency Solutions Grant Program for the purpose of providing assistance to persons who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) is responsible for administering the Missouri State Allocation of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant Program funds, via the Housing Emergency Solutions Program (HESP).

Regulations and Authority

The Missouri Housing Emergency Solutions Program is administered under the provisions of the HUD regulations within Title 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 576, as well as the agency's executed grant agreement, and the HESP Desk Guide. Grantees are encouraged to review all HUD Emergency Solutions Grant program requirements.

Overview

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, including major revisions to the Emergency Shelter Grants program, now the Housing Emergency Solutions Program.

Housing Emergency Solutions Program funds are made available in order to assist households experiencing homelessness to quickly regain stability in permanent housing and to prevent households from becoming homeless. This funding will support coordinated community-based activities that are designed to reduce the overall length of homelessness in the community, the number of households that become homeless and the overall rate of formerly homeless households returning to homelessness. This funding supports shelter, prevention, and rehousing activities that are targeted and coordinated with other homeless providers and homeless prevention providers.

The goals of the Housing Emergency Solutions Program include efforts to:

- Reduce the number of individuals/households who become homeless
- Shorten the length of time an individual/household is homeless
- Reduce the number of individuals/households that return to homelessness
- Prevent people at risk from becoming homeless

For more information on the Interim Rule visit: https://mhdc.com/programs/hud-programs/housing-emergency-solutions-program/

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be a qualified non-profit agency. The term "private non-profit organization" means a secular or religious organization described in section 501(c) of Title 26 that is exempt from taxation under Subtitle A, has an accounting system and a voluntary board, and practices nondiscrimination in the provision of assistance in a manner that is free from religious influences. To the extent determined

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under state law, private, secular, or faith-based non-profit organizations are eligible to serve as direct grantees if the city/county has declined funding through the letter of intent process.

All applicants are encouraged to participate in Continuum of Care planning where the proposed HESP activities will take place to the satisfaction of those CoCs.

Housing Emergency Solutions Program funds are not intended for the start-up of new homeless service providers or programs and duplicative efforts should be avoided. First time applicants are expected to have established homeless programs, be collaborative partners within their local CoC, and discuss their intention to apply for HESP funding with their local CoC prior to participating in the HESP application process.

Funding

The Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) will make available an estimated $2,700,000.00 as outlined in the 2027 Notice of Funding Availability. The funds will be allocated in a competitive process in accordance with the Allocation Plan.

Match

All applicants must provide at least a one hundred percent (100%) match for all HESP funds. Match sources can be cash or in-kind. The anticipated amount and sources of any matching funds must be stated in the match section of the application submitted. Documentation of the final match amounts, sources, and use of match funds will be required to be documented and tracked throughout the grant year and submitted at the end of the grant period.

Match can include all eligible funds available or expected to be available to the applicant from local, state, and federal agencies, foundations and private contributions, fundraising activities, and fees charged to participants.

In order to meet the matching requirements:

1. Matching contributions must meet all requirements that apply to the Federal Emergency Solutions Grant funds provided by HUD other than expenditure limits.
2. Matching funds (cash and non-cash) must be available and expended within the same time period as the Housing Emergency Solutions Program award.
3. Contributions used to match the Housing Emergency Solutions Program may not have been used to match previous Housing Emergency Solutions Program and may not be used to match subsequent grants.
4. Matching contributions may be obtained from any source, including any federal source as well as state, local, and private sources. Additionally, the following requirements apply to matching contributions from any federal source of funds:
   a. The recipient must ensure the laws governing any funds to be used as matching contributions do not prohibit those funds from being used to match HUD Emergency Solutions Grant funds; and
   b. If Housing Emergency Solutions Program funds are used to satisfy the matching requirements of another federal program, then funding from that program may not be

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used to satisfy the matching requirements of the Housing Emergency Solutions Program.

Matching funds may include:

1. Cash contributions include: cash expended for allowable costs, as defined in OMB Circulars A-87 (2 CFR part 225) and A-122 (2 CFR part 230), of the grantee/sub-grantee.
2. Non-cash contributions include: the value of any real property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the grantee's Housing Emergency Solutions Program, provided that if they had been paid for with Housing Emergency Solutions Program funds, the costs would have been allowable. Non-cash contributions may also include the purchase value of any donated building one time.

Applicants should include all funds available or expected to be available to applicant from local, state, and federal agencies, foundations and private contributions, fundraising activities, and fees charged to participants. These amounts will be verified by MHDC throughout the grant period. Applicants should be realistic and prepared to provide match verification if funds are awarded.

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Administration

Applicants are eligible to apply for up to five percent (5%) of the total grant request in administrative funding.

Example: If the total grant request is $50,000.00 then the administration request would be $2,500.00 and the remaining request for other eligible activities would be $47,500.00.

Data Collection

HESP applicants providing client services must enroll in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) system or a Comparable Database (victim service providers) of their Continuum of Care to be eligible to receive Housing Emergency Solutions Program funds. Grantees must be in compliance with all requirements set forth by the current published HUD Data Standards.

All activities funded under Housing Emergency Solutions Program must comply with HUD's standards on participation, data collection, and reporting, including those victim service providers using a comparable database.

All HESP grantees, including those not currently receiving funds, are required to be in full compliance with HMIS implementation guidelines and adhere to HUD Data Standards at the time of application. New HESP grantees and applicants that have never received HESP funds from the state allocation must be in full compliance with HMIS implementation at the time a grant agreement is signed.

For more information on HUD's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), please refer to: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/

Victim Services/Domestic Violence Providers Data Collection

While victim service providers are not required to participate in the local HMIS due to confidentiality and safety concerns, they are required to utilize a *Comparable Database* that collects client-level data over time (i.e., longitudinal data) and generates unduplicated aggregate reports based on the data. Information entered into a comparable database must not be entered directly into or provided to HMIS, but must identify clients by a unique identifier that will allow MHDC and HUD to ensure that eligible services are provided to eligible participants. The comparable database must be approved by the HMIS lead agency of the Continuum.

Victim Services/Domestic Violence Providers must document how they intend to ensure that Housing Emergency Solutions Program reporting policies and procedures are in place and followed while assuring the confidentiality of participants.

All activities funded under HESP must comply with HUD's standards on participation, data collection, and reporting under a local HMIS (including those victim service providers using a comparable database).

Confidentiality for victim services/domestic violence providers must be protected as required by statute for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sex trafficking.

SECTION II – Application Outline and Instructions

General Completion Instructions

1. **Applications will be accepted from five funding components: Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Rehousing, and HMIS/Comparable Database**. Administration is an eligible activity and is included in the application. Applicants should refer to the general funding guidelines on page three for the maximum amount grantees are eligible to apply for.

2. **Separate application for each Continuum of Care.** If an applicant wants to request funding for programs within different Missouri Continua, the applicant must submit a complete and separate application for each Continuum of Care. Each application is considered separately.

3. **Applicants may only submit one application per Missouri Continuum of Care**. If a non-profit applicant chooses to apply, they may not apply within the same geographic area.

4. **Applicants may only request funds for the counties in which the services will be located**. Applicants applying for Emergency Shelter funding may only request funding to serve the county that the shelter is located. Applicants applying for funding to provide direct services may only request funding for the counties in which participants being served reside.

5. **Applicants must respond to each question on the application**. Each answer should be concise, self-supporting, and not refer to any other area of the application or external documentation.

MHDC will accept:

- A single application from a direct non-profit.
- If an agency is applying in multiple CoCs, then a separate application for each CoC must be received.

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APPLICATION WORKFLOW

Listed below are descriptions of all sections and documentation required in the application. Please note that everything in the checklist must be included in the application; program information for components in which funds are not being requested do not need to be included. Specific questions or topics within each section that may need more detailed explanation are listed under each section topic.

Access to Grant Interface: https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=mhdc

1. Initial Applicant Details
   - Agency Details
   - Application Type
   - Emergency Solutions Grant/HESP 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

5. Six Funding Components or HMIS Lead Agency 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

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

8. Housing Emergency Solutions Program Specific Guidelines

9. Public Contact Information

10. Final Certification

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Initial Applicant Details

***Every question in this application is required to be filled out. The agency will not be able to submit without selecting or typing an answer.**

Agency Details – This section collects general information about the organization. This section should be completed based on information pertaining to the non-profit applicant. The questions are intended to provide detailed information about the organization that will be providing the services, including agency name, address, Executive Director contact information, UEI number, agency mission statement, and a list of the Board of Directors.

Continuum of Care Selection - Select which Continuum of Care (CoC) this application is for. If the applicant agency would like to apply for funding in multiple CoC's a separate application must be submitted for each Continuum.

Application Type – Select HMIS Lead or Client Service Provider. Only organizations that have been designated as the lead for the CoC should select the "HMIS Lead" applicant type. The appropriate type must be selected for the application to be filled out completely. If not designated by the CoC as an HMIS Lead select Client Service Provider.

Housing Emergency Solutions Program History – Applicant agencies must indicate if the project they are applying for is a First Time Applicant or is Currently Funded via Housing Emergency Solutions Program-26 in relation to the project they are applying for. The appropriate type must be selected for the application to be filled out completely.

- If the agency indicates they did receive HESP-26 funding, then the Housing Emergency Solutions Program-26 Funding History Section will become available and required for the applicant to complete.

Other Emergency Solutions Grant Awards – Applicant must indicate if they are receiving any additional Emergency Solutions Grant dollars in the entitlement area they are apply for (i.e., St. Louis City, Kansas City, and St. Louis County).

- If agency indicates that it does receive additional Emergency Solutions Grant funds, then the Other Emergency Solutions Grant Award Details section will become available and required for the applicant to complete.

Financial Management Details – This section collects financial information about the organization. The questions are intended to provide detailed information about the financial practices and competency of organization that will be providing the services, including: fiscal year, identifying accounting software, and indicating any audit findings.

MHDC and Federal Funding Regulations – This section includes questions about the applicant's ability to meet several of the mandatory requirements of the Housing Emergency Solutions Program, such as: HMIS/Comparable Database Usage; Homeless Participation Requirement; Continuum of Care Involvement; 100% Match Requirement; Coordinated Entry Participation; and Spending Deadlines Requirements.

- If the organization is using a Comparable Database, then the Comparable Database Details section will become available and required for the applicant to complete.

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HESP-27 Request Summary

Total HESP-27 Award Request – is the total amount the organization is requesting in this application.

All Grant Components + Administration=Total Request

<u>PLEASE NOTE</u> the following criteria for the application cycle:

1. Direct non-profits are eligible to apply for up to $50,000 per grant application.
2. Direct non-profits that serve multiple counties within a single Continuum of Care may apply for up to $50,000 per county up to $100,000.

Funding Components – Applicant must select each of the funding components they are seeking HESP-27 funds for.

Estimated Award Expenditure Strategy and Timeline – Applicant must detail how they will ensure that one hundred percent (100%) of any HESP-27 awarded funds will be spent within grant period of November 1st, 2026 through October 31st, 2027. This must include a detailed plan on how the applicant will ensure compliance with spending deadlines. This should also include (in addition to a written strategy) an actual estimated spending timeline, (i.e., January 2027 – 10% of RRH award spent, 5% of Admin award spent, and 15% of ES award spent).

Letter of Support #1 & #2

The applicant must gather two (2) letters of support for their HESP application from collaborative agencies that work with their Homeless Services Program(s) and/or local elected officials. The applicant will not collect these letters themselves. Both letters must be submitted into the application by the authors of the Letters of Support. All the applicant must do is enter the email address of the person who is responsible for writing your letter of support, write them an explanation email, and the system will send them a direct upload link that will connect the letter to the application. Further details can be found [here](#).

Attachments

The attachments are limited in size. The attachments will all need to be converted into a PDF file. Any other file type will not be accepted.

1. **Agency Budget Form** (Files Size Limit: 5MiB)
   The applicant must complete the projected agency budget for the agency's fiscal year that most closely aligns with the 2027 HESP grant year. The Agency Budget Form can be found on the MHDC website. After the Excel document is completed, please save as a PDF and upload the PDF copy.
   <u>REQUIRED FILE NAMING CONVENTION</u>: Agency Name_ Budget_2027

2. **Match Summary Form** (Files Size Limit: 5MiB)
   The applicant must detail how they will meet the 100 percent (100%) match requirement for the HESP funding requested. The Match Summary Form can be found on the MHDC website. After the Excel document is completed, please save as a PDF and upload the PDF copy.
   <u>REQUIRED FILE NAMING CONVENTION</u>: Agency Name_Match_2027

3. **Most Recent Audit Report** (Files Size Limit: 5MiB)
Applicants must include the agency's most recent board-approved independent auditor's report. If the most recent fiscal year audit is not complete yet, applicant should submit the last completed auditor's report. **Even if the agency is exempt from the federal audit requirement, MHDC still requires applicants to submit an auditor's report if one has been completed for the agency.**
If the agency cannot produce a completed auditor's report, the organization may instead submit a signed letter by the Executive Director stating why an audit has not been completed and certify that all records are available for review or audit by appropriate officials of HUD, MHDC, and the Government Accountability Office (GAO).
REQUIRED FILE NAMING CONVENTION: Agency Name_Audit_2027

4. **Homeless Participation Certification** (Files Size Limit 5MiB)
The applicant must provide a letter from the president of the organization's Board of Directors certifying compliance with HUD 24 CFR 576.405, which requires that homeless persons are included in the decision-making process for Housing Emergency Solutions Programs. The letter should be written on agency letterhead, dated within 60 days of the application, signed by the Board president, include verification of the participation of at least one homeless or formerly homeless person included in organization policy decision-making directly related to the Housing Emergency Solutions Program, and the process by which this requirement is fulfilled.

If the applicant's board of directors or equivalent decision-making body **DOES NOT** have a person with lived experience and expertise of homelessness your agency provides a letter from your Board President, dated within 60 days of the application explaining why and how your agency plans to meet HUD's standard for Homeless Participation in short order.
REQUIRED FILE NAMING CONVENTION: Agency Name_HPC_2027

5. **Certificate of Good Standing** (Files Size Limit: 5MiB)
Applicants must include a Certificate of Good Standing that is current within 60 days of the application due date. If the applicant does not have a current Certificate of Good Standing, then applicant may include the most recent Certificate AND a printout from the Secretary of State website stating agency is in good standing dated within *60 days of application* due date.
REQUIRED NAMING CONVENTION: Agency Name_CGS_2027

6. **Agency Financial Policies** (Files Size Limit 5Mib)
Applicants must upload their most currently updated financial policies document.
REQUIRED FILE NAMING CONVENTION: Agency Name_FinPolicy_2027

7. **501(c) (3) Verification** (Files Size Limit: 5MiB)
The applicant should provide verification of the organization's 501(c)(3) status.
REQUIRED NAMING CONVENTION: Agency Name_501c3_2027

Program Guidelines

Program Guidelines (Files Size Limit: 25MiB)

As required by <u>24 CFR Part 576.400(e)</u>, <u>576.402(a)</u>, and <u>576.500(d)</u>, all Housing Emergency Solutions Program grantees must establish and consistently apply **agency specify written standards** for providing assistance with HESP funds.

The applicant agency's written standards for providing Housing Emergency Solutions Program assistance must directly meet the standards below. All non-HMIS Lead applicants will be required to insert into the application the text from their written Policies and Procedures document, the component specific guidelines are part of each component section of the application.

Applicant should include guidelines that address each of the following project(s) components to be funded by Housing Emergency Solutions Program:

All Applicants:

A1.   Standards include procedures used for evaluating the eligibility of individuals and families for assistance under the Housing Emergency Solutions Program.

A2.   Standards include procedures describing the coordination among emergency shelter providers, essential services providers, homelessness prevention, and rapid re-housing assistance providers, other homeless assistance providers, and mainstream service and housing providers.

A3.   Standards describe the formal termination process established by the agency that recognizes the rights of individuals affected. The grantee must exercise judgment and examine all extenuating circumstances in determining when violations warrant termination so that a program participant's assistance is terminated only in the most severe cases.

A4.   Standards describe the program participant's formal grievance process.

A5.   Standards address the policy for participation in HMIS or comparable database.

A6.   Standards include procedures for ensuring that clients served and activities provided with Emergency Solutions Grant funds are entered into HMIS or comparable database, the timeframe for data to be entered, and the process for ensuring confidentiality of client records.

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Grant Components

Each specific Component Detail section will become available and required based on the applicants answer to the component's chosen in the Component Selection section of the application. Any component box checked will have a component detail section required.

- Administration Component Details
- HMIS Component Details (*Client Service Provider applicants only*)
- HMIS Lead Agency Component Details (*for HMIS Lead Agency applicants only*)
- Street Outreach Component Details
- Emergency Shelter Component Details
- Homelessness Prevention Component Details
- Rapid Rehousing Component Details

Request Breakdown

This section will require the applicant to break down their total component request as listed in the HESP-27 Request Summary section by the eligible expense types under that component. The total of all expense types under the specific component must add up to the total component request.

Program Structure

This section will require the applicant to provide a detailed description of the program they have designed for the specific components they are applying for and how it aligns with HUD and MHDC guidelines.

Additionally, the applicant will be required to answer questions regarding participant eligibility requirements, how the program collaborates with community partners, and case management policies.

Clients and Need

This section will require the applicant to provide a detailed description of the need in their community for the services they would provide with that specific funded component from any potential HESP-27 award. This should include staff observations, internal data, and statistics from 3rd party sources regarding the community the applicant serves.

Additionally, the applicant will be required to answer questions regarding which counties the component specific program with cover, what client populations and household types can be served by the program; and provide estimated number of clients served to be served.

Component Specific Written Program Standards

As required by 24 CFR Part 576.400(e), 576.402(a), and 576.500(d), all grantees must establish and consistently apply **agency specify written standards** for providing Housing Emergency Solutions Program assistance. Each component section will have the specific standards applicable to that area of funding that the applicant must provide their written standards for providing Housing Emergency Solutions Program assistance. These standards must directly meet the standards below.

Street Outreach Applicants Only:

SO1. Standards include procedure for targeting and providing services related to street outreach.

Emergency Shelter Applicants Only:

ES1. Standards include policy for admission, diversion, referral, and discharge by emergency shelters assisted under Housing Emergency Solutions Program, including standards regarding length of stay limits, if any, and safeguards to meet the safety and shelter needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault; and individuals and families who have the highest barriers to housing and are likely to be homeless the longest.

ES2. Standards include procedure for assessing, prioritizing, and reassessing individuals' and families' needs for essential services related to emergency shelter.

Homelessness Prevention Applicants Only:

HP1. Standards include procedure for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive homelessness prevention assistance.

HP2. Standards include procedure for determining what percentage or amount of rent and utilities costs each program participant must pay while receiving homelessness prevention assistance.

HP3. Standards include procedure for determining how long a program participant will be provided rental assistance and whether and how the amount of that assistance will be adjusted over time.

HP4. Standards include procedure for determining the type, amount, and duration of housing stabilization and/or relocation services to provide, including the limits, if any, on the homelessness prevention assistance that each program participant may receive, such as the maximum amount of assistance, maximum number of months in the program, or the maximum number of times the program participant may receive assistance.

HP5. Standards include policy for addressing the needs of ineligible applicants.

Rapid Rehousing Applicants Only:

RRH1. Standards include procedure for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive rapid re-housing assistance.

RRH2. Standards include procedure for determining what percentage or amount of rent and utilities costs each program participant must pay while receiving rapid re-housing assistance.

RRH3. Standards include procedure for determining how long a program participant will be provided rental assistance and whether and how the amount of that assistance will be adjusted over time.

RRH4. Standards include procedure for determining the type, amount, and duration of housing stabilization and/or relocation services to provide, including the limits, if any, on the rapid

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re-housing assistance that each program participant may receive, such as the maximum amount of assistance, maximum number of months in the program, or the maximum number of times the program participant may receive assistance.

RRH5.   Standards include policy for addressing the needs of ineligible applicants.

Follow Up Sections

Comparable Database Details – Only becomes available and required if applicant agency indicates it uses a comparable database system. The applicant must indicate if it is a Victim Service Provider and then identify which comparable database system is utilized.

Housing Emergency Solutions Program Funding History – Only available and required if applicant agency indicated it received Housing Emergency Solutions Program-26 funding in the Agency Details section. The applicant must list the Housing Emergency Solutions Program-26 grant number, total award, and funded components specific to the program this HESP-27 application is for. The applicant must ensure that the Housing Emergency Solutions Program-26 information input corresponds to the same service area as their HESP-27 application.

Other Emergency Solutions Grant Award Details- Only available and required if applicant agency indicates it receives additional Emergency Solutions Grant awards. Applicant must indicate where the funding is from, the total amount of funding, and in which components funding was received for.

Match Waiver Request Details – Only available and required if the applicant agency indicates they are requesting a match waiver. The applicant must describe why the 100% match requirement is a hardship.

Emergency Shelter Facility Details – Only required if the applicant agency indicates that it operates a physical emergency shelter location. Applicant will be required to describe the layout of their shelter, the operation schedule, upload an HESP-205, and provide an estimated number of bed-nights that will be provided.

SECTION III –Evaluation of Applications

Overview

Missouri Housing Development Commission wants to ensure that the limited pool of funding received is used in the most effective way possible to help organizations provide the necessary services to homeless individuals and families in the state of Missouri. In order to do this, funds awarded will be based on scoring system for applications. Individual scores by component may be assessed for completeness of the grant application, past performance, procurement of outside resources, impact on homelessness within community, participation in Coordinated Entry, participation in their Continuum of Care, extent to which programs result in increased housing stability for clients, organizational development and experience, budgeting and financial reporting, efficient and effective data collection, and other relevant factors that show how effectively the project addresses the goals of HESP. Applicants requesting funds for multiple components may receive funds for one, but not all.

Additionally, there are certain conditions, which may result in an application being rejected without being reviewed. These threshold requirements include, but are not limited to, missing deadlines, incomplete applications, lack of demonstrated need for the activities within the service area or the Continuum of Care, 501(c)(3) status for non-profit agencies, and serious, recurrent, or outstanding finding of non-compliance.

Submission of an application does not guarantee an applicant will receive funds.

Evaluation of Application Details

Individual scores by program may be assessed for:

- Completeness and organization of the grant application;
- Extent to which the applicant demonstrates an understanding of HEARTH regulations, HUD priorities for the Emergency Solutions Grant program, and USICH Home Together;
- Past performance in Housing Emergency Solutions Programs;
- Strength of program design and implementation strategy;
- Extent to which programs result in increased housing stability and permanent housing outcomes for clients;
- Need for requested component(s) in area;
- Extent to which program serves exclusively (100%) "homeless" persons;
- Consistency with local need, collaboration with local plans, and service delivery strategies;
- Participation in the Coordinated Entry system recognized by the Continuum of Care;
- Amount of funds requested;
- Value of applicant's match contributions (cash and in-kind);
- Demonstrated ability of the agency to move homeless individuals into housing or demonstrated ability of the organization to increase housing stability of homeless individuals;
- Coordination and participation within local Continuum of Care;
- Extent to which the project's approach makes homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring;
- Use of best practices for provision of services; and
- Follows written standards in program guidelines

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SECTION IV– Submission Requirements

Submission Instructions:

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

The full logon instructions can be found on the MHDC website.

- 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 will need to be started over in order to resume.

- Most questions are set to require an answer and the application will not allow submission if it is not complete

- Narrative questions are limited to a certain set of characters

- Once the application is complete and ready to be submitted, click "Submit Application"

- Once an application is submitted it cannot be edited

Failure to submit fully completed applications as designated below will result in a point reduction when the application is evaluated. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

The application must be submitted before **11:59 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2026**.

Funding recommendations are expected to be presented to the Commission for approval in July 2026.

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SECTION V– General Information

2027 HESP Timeline

Application Available on Grant Interface: March 2, 2026

Application Deadline: April 3, 2026

Grant Term Begins: November 1, 2026

Grant Term Ends: October 31, 2027

Quiet Period:

MHDC's Standards of Conduct prohibits interested parties from contacting MHDC staff or Commission during the seven calendar days prior to a vote on a Competitive Manner ("Quiet Period"). HESP applicants should not contact Commissioners or MHDC staff members during the seven days leading up to MHDC's scheduled Commission meeting in regards to HESP funding decisions.

Contact Information:

For questions about the application or application process, please contact:

HUD Programs Administrator
Brendan Irving
(816) 759-2875
CP.Programs@mhdc.com

HUD Emergency Solutions Grant Resources:

HUD Emergency Solutions Grant Program
https://www.hudexchange.info/esg/

HUD Emergency Solutions Grant Frequently Asked Questions
https://www.hudexchange.info/esg/faqs/

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