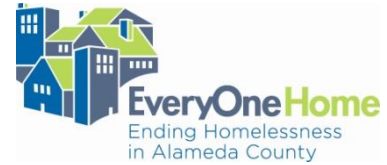


MEMORANDUM



To: System Coordination Committee

From: Ja’Nai Aubry (Director of CoC Strategies)

Date: November 10, 2020

Re: Rapid Rehousing Written Standard

Per federal regulations, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipients must develop written standards for allocating ESG funds. ESG can be used to fund emergency shelter, street outreach, rapid rehousing, and prevention services for homeless and at-risk households. ESG written standards must include policies and procedures for determining a household’s eligibility, local prioritization for funding, types of assistance, the amount of assistance and length of assistance for eligible households.

As you know, Alameda County has received COVID-19 specific ESG-CV funding to house homeless households at high risk of complications due to COVID-19. Much of this funding will be used to exit households from Project Roomkey into rapid rehousing (RRH) which will serve as either a permanent housing solution or a bridge to deeply affordable housing and/or permanent supportive housing for eligible households.

Currently, Alameda County does not have a system wide RRH policy. Instead, separate policies have been drafted as different RRH funding sources have become available, including the 2013 ESG written standards and the Boomerang specific policies included in the Housing Crisis Response System Manual. Given the newly funded HUD DV Bonus Rapid Rehousing program set to begin in mid-December 2020 and the need to allocate ESG-CV funding by the expenditure deadline, Alameda County should develop a systemwide Rapid Rehousing written standard that meets the requirements of all relevant federal regulations (including ESG and the Violence Against Women Act) to efficiently / equitably house high-risk homeless households, and to establish uniform best practices and performance outcomes for service providers.

EveryOne Home recommends that SCC provide guidance to Ja’Nai Aubry, EveryOne Home’s Director of CoC Strategies, who will review local RRH policies, research/analyze best practices from other communities, and consult with HUD T.A. providers to draft a system-wide RRH written standard. In addition, EveryOne Home recommends that SCC designate a small working group that will meet 1-2 times to review a draft standard and offer feedback before a final recommendation is presented for the full committee’s approval.

In the interim, given the urgency of exiting Project Roomkey households to permanent housing, EveryOne Home recommends that SCC ask Katharine Gale to draft an interim ESG-CV RRH policy. The draft interim policy would be reviewed by ESG grantees, including Alameda County HCD, the City of Oakland and the City of Berkeley before it is submitted for SCC’s approval. SCC may need to schedule a special meeting to vote before it’s next meeting on January 13th, 2021.