

## Dressel, Elizabeth (MHFA)

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**From:** Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness <mn.housing@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 5:10 PM  
**To:** Dressel, Elizabeth (MHFA)  
**Subject:** Available Funding Resources and Weekly Provider Webinar

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## Topics and Issues for Providers Serving People Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19

September 15, 2020

We have seen the largest increase in homeless-specific funding in state history, with over \$75 million in new State and Federal funds dedicated to supporting people experiencing homelessness and \$106 million allocated to preventing homelessness and evictions allocated since March. These resources in combination with the incredible work providers and local communities are doing are critical to protect people experiencing homelessness and prevent people from becoming homeless. In past newsletters and webinars we have shared specific details about the available funding sources, but want to take this opportunity to put the information in one place and provide an update on available funding resources that can continue to support your work.

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### Emergency Services Program (ESP-CV) Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF-ESP), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV)

In March, \$26.5 million in state general fund was allocated to Emergency Services Program (ESP). This funding has been instrumental to responding to community needs and has supported additional shelter capacity, including 2,300 hotel units statewide, purchasing of hygiene/sanitation supplies for shelter and outreach workers, and supporting provider staffing needs. The Walz-Flanagan administration allocated \$22 million in Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds-ESP (CRF-ESP) to sustain the ESP-CV activities when that funding is depleted. CRF-ESP

funding is available and you can complete the rolling survey on the [Heading Home Alliance Funding Resources webpage](#).

Additionally, the Federal CARES act included funding for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV). The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has distributed the funding in multiple allocations, CV1 and CV2. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the second round of funding, ESG-CV2 totaling \$15 million, will be issued in the coming weeks and will target emergency shelter operations, rapid re-housing and prevention. Since some jurisdictions receive direct “entitlement” allocations of these funds, the state must take a statewide approach when considering proposals for ESG. Contact your local jurisdiction to find out how to apply for ESG funds allocated to the entitlement communities, Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Dakota County, Hennepin County and St. Louis County.

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) is responsible for administering these funds and has created the following chart to provide an overview on each funding source. If you have any questions on these funding sources, please contact [Katelyn Warburton](#).

Funding Name	Activities Supported	Funds Available	Application Process:	Timeline:
ESP-CV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Shelter capacity</li> <li>• Hygiene/sanitation supplies</li> <li>• Staffing</li> </ul>	\$26.5 M (Approx. \$2.9M remaining)	Rolling Survey <a href="#">(Heading Home Alliance Website)</a>	April 1, 2020- until expended (likely mid-Sept)
CRF-ESP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of ESP-CV activities (i.e., food, shelter capacity, hygiene/sanitation supplies, and staffing)</li> <li>• Capital (light rehab)</li> </ul>	\$22 M	Rolling Survey <a href="#">(Heading Home Alliance Website)</a>	Sept 1, 2020 – Dec 30, 2020 (or until expended)
ESG-CV1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Shelter</li> <li>• Unsheltered Street Outreach</li> </ul>	\$7 M	Request for Proposals closed on August 12th	Oct 1, 2020 – Sept 30, 2022
ESG-CV2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Shelter</li> <li>• Rapid Re-Housing</li> <li>• Prevention</li> </ul>	\$14-15 M	Request for Proposals <b>will be issued in October</b>	Nov 1, 2020 – Sept 30, 2022





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## COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

The [COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program](#) continues to accept applications from individuals and families impacted by COVID-19. The program has \$100 million dollars to help prevent evictions and homelessness and maintain housing stability for eligible renters and homeowners. Since the program launched at the end of August, over 16,000 applicants have submitted applications requesting about \$22 million in assistance.

Please continue to help us spread the word about this important resource with the individuals and families you work with who may be interested in applying!

The 211 helpline has dedicated multilingual staff available to answer questions about the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition to the state program, some counties and cities have dedicated federal resources for eviction prevention. Visit the [Heading Home Alliance website](#) to find out more information on local programs.

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## Veteran Resources

Additional resources exist for veterans experiencing hardships related to COVID-19. An additional \$6 million has been allocated to help veterans and their families in need with a one-time grant up to \$3,000. The funding programs include:

- Disaster Relief Grants related to job loss or healthcare;
- COVID-19 Special Needs Benefits; and
- COVID-19 K-12 Distance Learning Support Grants to help mitigate the negative financial impact a family experiences by implementing their school district's distance learning or hybrid learning plans.

Those interested in applying for this additional programming have until June 30, 2021 to submit their applications through their local County Veteran Service Office. For additional information, please visit [minnesotaveteran.org](http://minnesotaveteran.org).

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## Housing Support

In March, the legislature approved \$5.5 million for a 15% increase to the room and board and standard supplemental service rates for Housing Support providers for March, April, and May, 2020. The temporary increase provided resources to all Housing Support providers to support the response to COVID-19.

Housing Support has been a key resource in supporting the hotel to home model that has moved hundreds of people from the streets into hotel units and on a path to permanent housing. If you are interested in supporting a hotel to home project as a Housing Support provider or learning more about this opportunity, please contact [Kristine Davis](#).

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## Weekly Provider Webinar

Please join the Weekly Provider Webinar tomorrow from 1:00-2:00 p.m. to hear updates from the state team. If you have not registered for the webinar, you can do so by clicking on the button below. If you have any questions about your registration, please email [Elizabeth Dressel](mailto:Elizabeth.Dressel@state.mn.us).

[Click here to register for webinar](#)

We are enormously grateful for all you do. Be well and stay healthy.

With much appreciation,

Cathy ten Broeke  
Executive Director and Assistant Commissioner  
Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness



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