

ESG Application Decision Making in Kentucky's Balance of State

COSCEA Program Managers
Training Conference 2026



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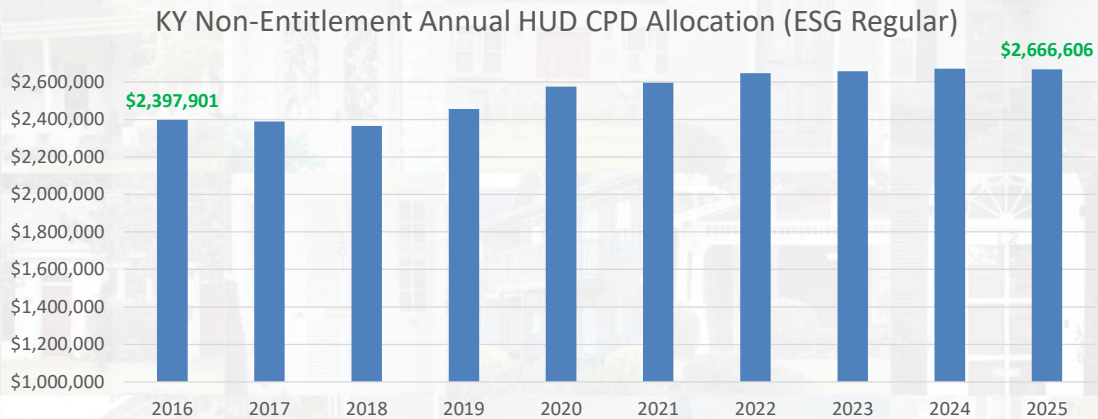
ESG Landscape in KY

- Kentucky has 3 Participating Jurisdictions (PJs) that receive annual ESG allocations from HUD:
 - Commonwealth of Kentucky (non-entitlement – 118 of Kentucky's 120 counties) – administered by Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC)
 - Lexington (Fayette Co.)
 - Louisville (Jefferson Co.)
- Kentucky has 3 Continuums of Care (CoCs) that share the same county footprints as the 3 ESG PJs listed above:
 - KY Balance of State CoC (118 counties; KHC is lead agency)
 - Lexington CoC (Fayette Co.)
 - Louisville CoC (Jefferson Co.)
- No funding is appropriated by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to support emergency shelters.



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KY BoS ESG Allocations Since FY2016



11% increase since FY2016 (increase of \$268,705 in FY2025 compared to FY2016)



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General Application Highlights

- Funding requests capped at \$150,000 per organization. Organizations providing emergency shelter in more than one county may submit two applications for up to \$150,000 each.
- Applicants may request one or more of any of the allowable ESG components (Shelter, Prevention, Street Outreach, and Rapid Rehousing) plus HMIS and/or Admin costs.
- Previously awarded higher points for percentage of applicant's request made up by RRH. In recent years, no longer incentivizing RRH through points. Focus is on articulated need of local community in relation to other funding available, if any.



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Application Policy Priorities

- Housing-Focused Project and System Design
- Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness
 - Increase provision of Street Outreach
 - Increase availability of Low-Barrier Shelter
- Reducing Homelessness Among Individuals
- Expanding the Availability and Flexibility of RRH
- Reducing Returns to Homelessness by Connecting People to Employment and Non-Earned Income
- Alignment with System Performance Measures



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Application Scoring

- Combination of qualitative and quantitative information is used. Application sections include:
 - Project Need and Design
 - Area-Wide System Collaboration
 - Financial Plan
 - Agency Experience and Capacity
 - Other Requirements and Performance
- Applicants must provide detailed narrative responses to multi-part questions (similar to HUD's CoC application).
- Quantitative data from the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and HMIS are scored to evaluate project's contribution to CoC's System Performance Measures (SPMs).



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Examples of Quantitative Data Used

- Number of counties to be served (used for RRH, Prevention, and Street Outreach)
- Does other low-barrier, year-round shelter for proposed population exist in proposed county (if no, more points)
- Need for project (applicant must provide quantitative data)
- Rate of homelessness in proposed service area compared to BoS rate. (PIT)
- HMIS Data Quality (no “don’t know”, “refused”, or “missing” data for exit destinations)
- Exits to permanent housing
- Households in need per Coordinated Entry data (for RRH)
- Length of time from project entry to Housing Move-In (for RRH)
- Yes/No responses to low-barrier shelter questions (e.g. requiring IDs, drug tests/breathalyzers, curfews)
- Applicant experience specifically relating to ESG



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Examples of Qualitative Data Used

Narrative responses to the following:

- Plan to obtain housing quickly/plan to maintain housing
 - For RRH, this must include housing search, financial assistance, and on-going case management
- Plan to increase employment income/non-employment income
- Plan to obtain mainstream benefits
- Plan to connect participants with health services and substance use treatment if needed/desired by participant
- Coordination with community partners
- How project enhances efforts of the CoC to address homelessness



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Questions?

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KHC's ESG webpage:
<https://www.kyhousing.org/Programs/Homeless-Programs/Pages/Emergency-Solutions-Grant.aspx>

