

Non-congregate shelter is the term used for emergency shelters that provide accommodations in a way that provides private space for guests. Non-congregate shelter is generally provided via motel rooms and is a proven way to limit the spread of COVID 19 among people experiencing houselessness.

FEMA has a process by which local governments can apply for pre-approval for a program that will cover 75% of the total cost of providing non-congregate shelter. The EOC is seeking approval from the Board to submit an application for this program, as well as a temporary commitment of county general fund.

H3S has identified \$900,000 in ESG-CV Phase 2 funds that can be used to meet the required 25% local match requirement. While the remaining 75% of the costs will be covered by FEMA, the County will need to allocate county general fund to cover 75% of the costs until FEMA reimbursement is received.

Since this is a pre-approval process we do not expect that the FEMA reimbursement will be delayed for years, which can be true for regular FEMA reimbursement. However, we cannot say for certain how long the county will wait for reimbursement. The wait time for reimbursement will impact that amount of county general funds that will be required to support this program until FEMA funds arrive.

As described in the attached spreadsheet, a two month delay in FEMA reimbursement will require a temporary commitment of county general funds of \$900,000. A three month delay will require \$1,200,000, and a four month delay will require \$1,500,000. **It is important to note that this is a temporary commitment. All county funds will be eventually be reimbursed.**

The county's participation in this FEMA program will have a profound impact on the scale of non-congregate shelter that is provided to houseless people who are older or have an underlying health condition. With the FEMA reimbursement H3S anticipates providing safe and secure housing for 130 individuals from Sept. through May. Without FEMA funding we can only serve 56 individuals from November through March.

The recently completed motel voucher program served 125 people, 50 of whom transitioned to long term stable housing during their motel stay. Non-congregate shelter saves lives, reduces community spread of COVID 19, and provides a platform for long term stable housing.

Thank you for your consideration.