

PUBLIC HEARING

**Scranton, Pennsylvania
Office of Economic and Community Development**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2010 – 2014 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND 2011 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, March 27, 2012, at 4:00 P.M.** in Scranton City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 340 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503, the City of Scranton's Office of Economic and Community Development (OECD) will be conducting a public meeting for the transition of the Emergency Shelter Grant Program to Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and proposed Allocation of Additional Funds in the amount of **\$84,412.00**. Integrated into this Public Hearing, the City of Scranton OECD is providing the public with the final rule on the definitions of "Homelessness"

Proposed Allocation of Additional Emergency Solution Grant Funding – Phase II

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), enacted into law on May 20, 2009, consolidates three of the separate homeless assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act into a single grant program, and revises the Emergency Shelter Grant program and renames it as the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program.

The change in the program's name, from Emergency Shelter Grants to Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), reflects the change in the program's focus from addressing the needs of homeless people in emergency or transitional shelters to broaden existing emergency shelter and homelessness prevention activities and to add short and medium term rental assistance and services to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. The intent of the new ESG program is to build upon those services developed through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) program that was funded as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). HUD has notified the City of Scranton it is eligible to receive an additional **\$84,412.00** in Emergency Solution Grant funding (Phase II) for the 2011 Action Plan program year.

This Public Hearing Notice provides citizens a thirty (30) day written comment period on this amendment to ensure that citizens have the opportunity to comment before said amendment is implemented.

All written comments must be received by the City of Scranton's Office of Economic and Community Development, 538 Spruce Street, Suite 812, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503 no later than **Thursday, April 26, 2012**. Substantial amendments to the City of Scranton's Action Plan can be made only after the public has been notified of the City's intent to modify it and after the 30 day comment period from the date of this publication to review and comment on the proposed substantial change to it. The Substantial Amendment must be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development no later than **May 15, 2012**. HUD has 45 days to approve the amount of **\$84,412.00**. Only after both HUD and the City of Scranton sign the grant agreement amendment can the City of Scranton execute contract amendments with their Sub-recipients and funds can be expended.

Proposed Allocation of Additional ESG Funds

The first allocation in the amount of \$150,066.00 was allocated and is subject to the Emergency Shelter Grant Program. The new Emergency Solution Grant Program (ESG) regulations limits the amount to be allocated to street outreach and emergency shelter activities to sixty percent (60%) of the grant amount or the amount allocated in the 2010 Action Plan, whichever is greater. The additional Emergency Solution Grant funding must be used for the new services outlined in the regulations specifically homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities.

The new allocation will not be used on Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for 2011. The new Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds in the amount of **\$84,412.00** will be used on three (3) of the five (5) program components for 2011:

**Homelessness Prevention
Rapid Re-Housing
Administration**

The Final Rule on the Definition of “Homelessness”

The City of Scranton must also incorporate the new definitions of “Homelessness” into their Consolidated Plan 2010-2014 and implement it into the new Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

If you have any comments or questions, please contact the City of Scranton’s Office of Economic and Community Development at 570/348-4216, ext. 110 or mail your comments to City of Scranton’s Office of Economic and Community Development, 538 Spruce Street, Suite 812, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503. This full notice can be accessed by going to the OECD Department page at the City of Scranton web site: www.scrantonpa.gov.

For persons with disabilities planning on attending the Public Meeting please contact City of Scranton’s Office of Economic and Community Development at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (570) 348-4216, ext. 110. The telecommunication device for the hearing impaired may be accessed by calling 570/348-4233. **Homeless individuals or previously homeless individuals are urged to attend in order to obtain their input in considering and making policies and decisions regarding the distribution of the Emergency Solution Grant Program to eligible subrecipients.**

Linda B. Aebli
Executive Director
Office of Economic and Community Development

Christopher A. Doherty
Mayor
City of Scranton, Pennsylvania