

**Iowa Finance Authority  
Iowa Emergency Solutions Grant & Shelter Assistance Fund – Homeless Assistance Programs  
2024 & 2025 Calendar Years Competition  
Public Comments**

**Comments Invited:**

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) is opening a new competition for the Iowa Statewide Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) & Shelter Assistance Fund (SAF). The competition will be for grant funding for the 2022 and 2023 calendar years. IFA invited public and stakeholder comments on the proposed application. Comments received by the deadline of 9/10/2021 are below, along with IFA responses. IFA thanks all commenters for their feedback in developing these programs and this competition.

**Comments Received:**

**Melissa O’Neil, Central Iowa Shelter and Services**

CISS has been operating an emergency shelter for 31 years in Polk County. With our expansion to serve the Rolling Hills in 2020, we are working with local communities in the region to request funding to support non-congregate shelters and shelters designed to open overnight during extreme weather. Would this be a new application for specific communities or can we write for the region? Or do we combine it with our current shelter application that has a performance report?

Communities we are working to support in shelter are Grinnell, Ottumwa, Knoxville and Centerville. Each of these are unique in their own way as we listen to local communities leaders to fill a gap in the counties.

Please advise on how you would like CISS to proceed.

**Response:**

Only one application will be accepted per agency with a maximum to request \$150k in shelter funding. It is suggested that each community apply separately as a new applicant.

**J’nae Peterman, Waypoint**

The amount projected our region will need to be split between the three RRH programs currently operating. Would it be possible to put all of that award towards staffing costs (currently between our 3 programs we have 6 RRH case managers, 1 housing locator, and then data and admin time, so the \$242,522 won’t cover all of that) and we use our ERA as the direct client assistance?

**Response:**

Please use a portion of your ESG funds on client costs as well as staffing costs.

**William Bird, Friends of the Family**

Application looks great to us! Thank you

**Shannon Sander-Welzien, YWCA Clinton**

(Additional supporting documentation also submitted to accompany the comments below.)

Hi, Mollie,

Attached is a letter regarding our opposition to regionalization of services. We know the decision is already made, but felt it was still important to send a letter regarding the detriments of regionalization on smaller and rural communities.

Thank you for all you do for our State! We do know you all are fighting the good fight to end homelessness, and tough decisions had to be made.

**Response:**

We plan to change the application in the future; however, with the timing of staffing changes at IFA and the ESG/SAF competition timeline, we decided to keep the application the same this year.