

ESR Program Subcommittee Report Out

General Government & Social Services Committee

March 9, 2021



Office of the
Urban County Council



Process

Subcommittee Members

CHAIR: James Brown, Council Member, 1st District

Steve Kay, Vice Mayor, At Large

Hannah LeGris, Council Member, 3rd District

Susan Lamb, Council Member, 4th District

Kathy Plomin, Council Member, 12th District

Lots of Support – ESR Agency Survey

Liz Sheehan, Council Member, 5th District

Jennifer Reynolds, Council Member, 11th District

Department of Social Services
Office of Homelessness,
Prevention & Intervention

Law Department

CAO's Office

Department of Finance

Survey with ESR Agencies

Short Timeline

Appointed – January 14, 2021

Meeting – January 25

Meeting – February 8

Meeting – February 19

Meeting – February 26

Recommendations – March 9, 2021



Purpose:

To conduct a complete assessment of the LFUCG ESR Program and to report its findings to the General Government and Social Services Committee for further considerations and recommendations.

Scope of Work:

- Evaluate the priority areas of the ESR Program
- Review the draft ordinance (presented to the General Government & Social Services Committee in November 2020) that directs the administration to allocate at least 1% of the General Fund revenue collected from the last full fiscal year in order to fund the ESR grant program



Pre-Subcommittee Work

The Commissioner of the Department of Social Services provided two presentations to the General Government & Social Services Committee before the subcommittee was appointed (October 2020 & January 2021). Some highlights include:

- FY2018 ESR grant cycle established: four priority areas, funding targets, and an RFP for each area to receive proposals and disperse funds; priority areas:
 - Community Wellness & Safety
 - Childhood & Youth Development
 - Food Insecurity & Nutritional Access
 - Overnight Emergency Shelter
- Priority Area - Overnight Emergency Shelter used different program criteria and received a 25% set aside of ESR Program funding
- Provided a historical outline of funding for the ESR Program since FY2016, which distributed \$14M to partner agencies over six years and reviewed other related funds
 - Hope Center received a direct allocation starting in FY2019
 - Ordinance 103-2014 directs the allocation of \$750,000 to the Innovative and Sustainable Solutions to Homelessness Fund and \$2M to the Affordable Housing Fund



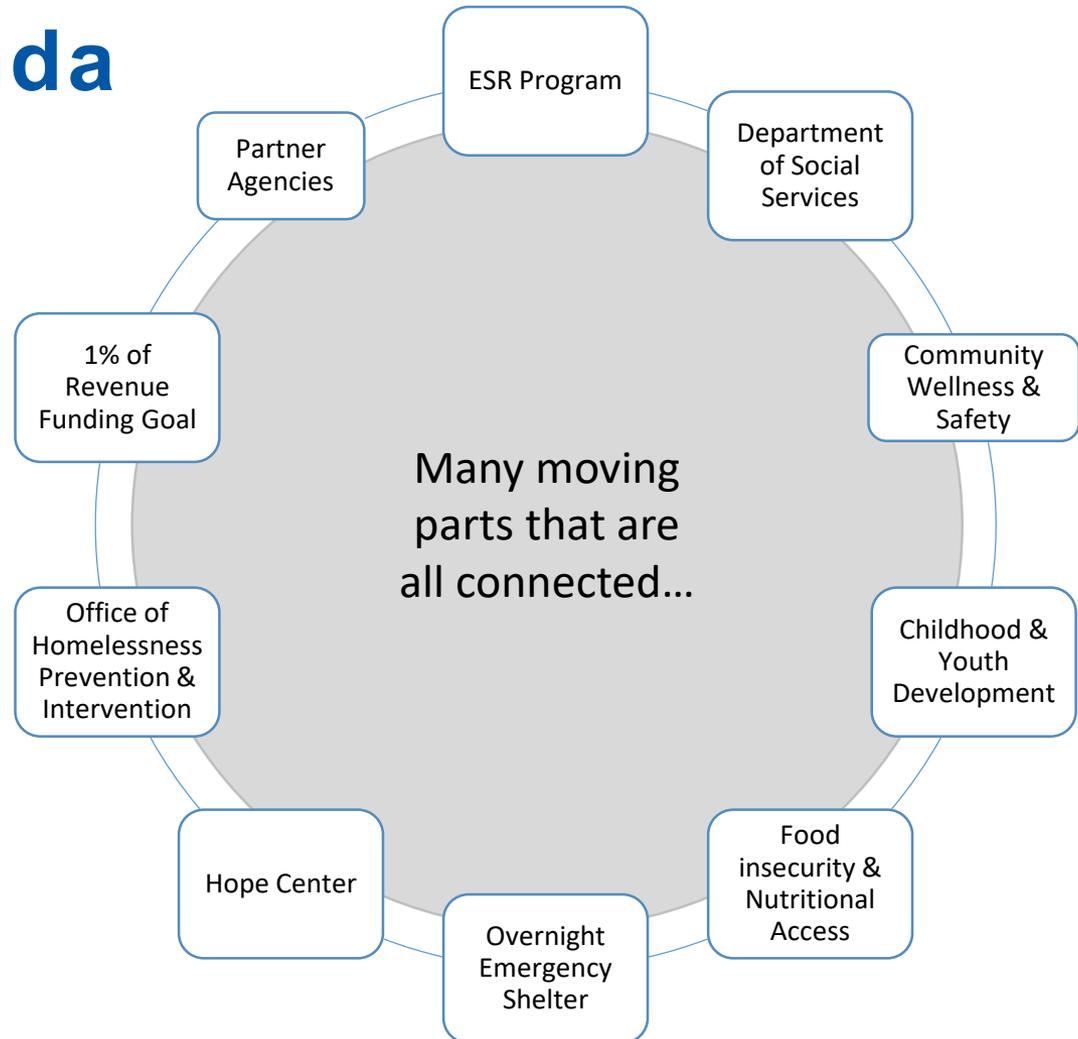
Today's Agenda

FIRST | Recommendation 1

- Realignment of Resources
- Two Distinct Program Components
- Funding
- Draft Resolution

SECOND | Recommendations 2-7

- ESR Agency Survey
- Emphasized Needs
- ESR Process Recommendations
- Other considerations





Realignment of Resources

- Realignment of all shelter funding under OHPI allows there to be one office to oversee all homelessness functions of LFUCG
 - OHPI already manages the majority of the administration of Overnight Emergency Shelters and Hope Center funding but parts of the administration of this ESR priority area are currently managed by the Department of Social Services
- 25% of ESR Program funds have been set aside for Overnight Emergency Shelters for the last four fiscal years
- Since FY2016, the agencies funded by LFUCG to provide overnight emergency shelters has essentially not changed
- Hope Center has received a direct allocation for its shelter since FY2019; before receiving a direct allocation Hope Center submitted proposals through ESR for funding



Two Distinct Program Components

ONE – ESR Program: embrace the ESR Program as one initiative to partner with nonprofit agencies who provide important social services and further meet the needs of our community

TWO – Distinct and Operationally Individual Components

1. Community Based Initiatives Program

- To be administered by the Department of Social Services
- Maintain three existing priority areas: Community Wellness & Safety; Childhood & Youth Development; Food Insecurity & Nutritional Access

2. Overnight Emergency Shelter Program

- To be administered by the Office of Homelessness, Prevention & Intervention
- Absorb the shelter priority area in current ESR Program, plus other funding LFUCG allocates for shelters

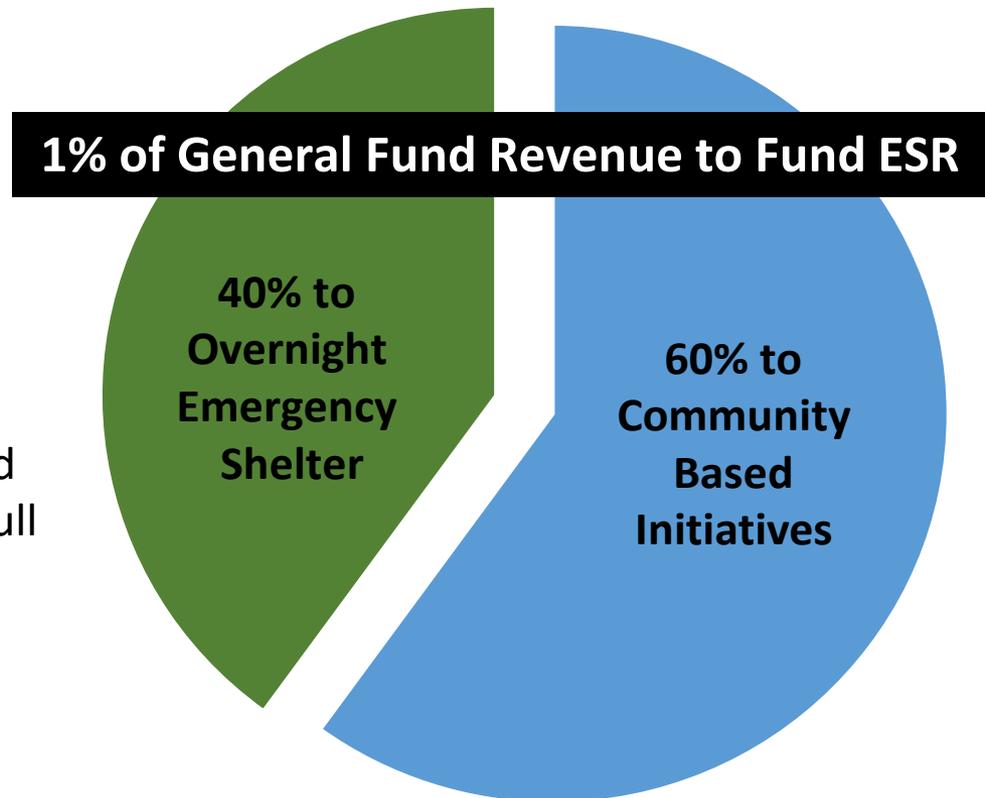


Funding Goal & Structure

- The Council embraced an aspirational goal to fund the ESR Program at 1% of General Fund revenue in 2014
- The 1% goal was last acknowledged in the FY18-19 ESR Program guidelines attached to Resolution 598-2016
- The proposed resolution establishes a funding goal

FUNDING GOAL:

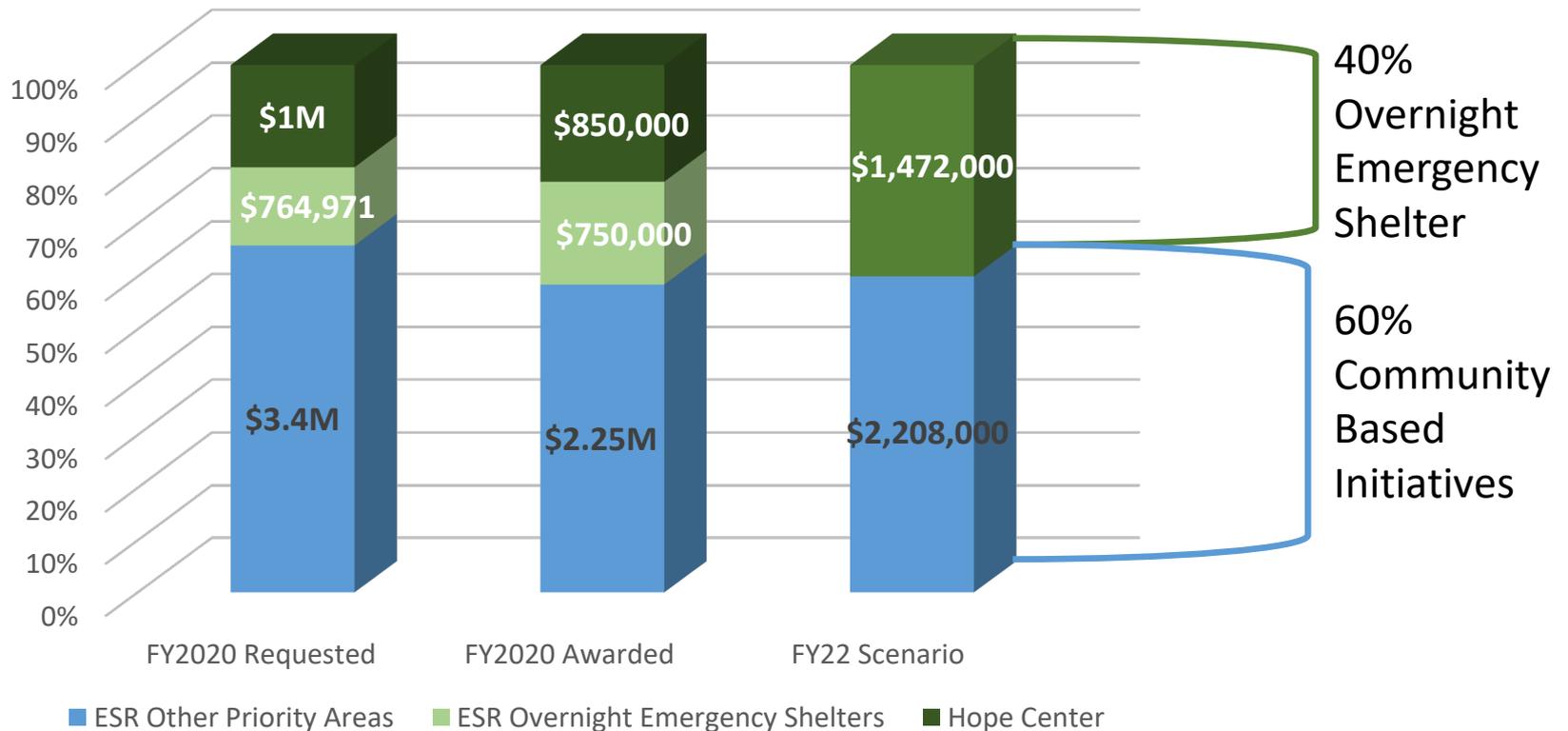
Each fiscal year, allocate at least one percent (1%) of General Fund revenue collected from the last full fiscal year to the ESR Program, should fund two components:





Funding Scenario

With FY2020 General Fund Revenue totaling about \$368M, the allocation for the ESR Program (1% GF revenue) for FY2022 would equal \$3.68M





Draft Resolution

RECOMMENDATION 1 --- Adopt a resolution to:

- Establish two distinct and operationally independent components of the ESR Program:
 - a) Community Based Initiatives Program, which will provide funding through grants
 - b) Overnight Emergency Shelter Program for the basic human right of overnight emergency shelter services for those experiencing homelessness, which will provide funding through grants or other agreements
 - Includes Hope Center and all emergency shelters in Fayette County
- Establish a funding goal for the ESR Program, for each fiscal year, of at least 1 percent of the General Fund revenue collected from the last full fiscal year
- Divide the total amount allocated to the ESR Program:
 - 60 percent dedicated to the Community Based Initiatives Program
 - 40 percent dedicated to the Overnight Emergency Shelter Program



ESR Agency Survey

3

Questions

148

Recipients received the survey

6

Days to respond

56

Respondents

Survey Questions & Feedback	
Do the existing ESR Priority Areas properly address the current human services needs across our community?	88% Yes
Would you prefer a one-year or two-year ESR funding cycle?	82% Prefer two-year
<p>Are there any emerging and/or unmet community human services needs, which should be considered for potential ESR funding?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Feedback Highlights:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">affordable housing, flexibility, student learning, mental health, immediate and basic needs, cancer screenings, youth aging out of child welfare, arts, youth, housing assistance, racism, transportation, support services to supplement police, shelter, youth academic achievement, respite care, reach of services</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(only 20 responses to this survey question)</p>	



Emphasized Needs

RECOMMENDATION 2

- Under the Community Based Initiatives Program, seek proposals from nonprofit partners to help provide services and resources to meet the following emphasized needs:

PRIORITY AREAS

Community Wellness & Safety:

- **Youth violence intervention**
- **Mental health**

Childhood & Youth Development:

- **Student learning loss (specifically kindergarten through 12th grade)**
- **Youth violence prevention**
- **Mentorship**

Food Security and Nutritional Access



ESR Process Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 3

- Provide an opportunity under the Community Based Initiatives Program for agencies to explicitly state how their proposal supports or enhances recommendations made by the Mayor's Commission on Racial Justice & Equality

RECOMMENDATION 4

- ESR Program to use a two-year funding cycle
 - For FY2022 use a one-year funding cycle due to the current budget conditions and the uncertain pandemic environment

RECOMMENDATION 5

- Encourage administrators of the ESR Program to:
 - Engage the nonprofit community in the grant process
 - Fund more of the application amount requested
 - Increase the window of time in which applications can be received



Other Considerations

RECOMMENDATION 6

- Consider allocating one-time funds as a separate budget request for educational support focused on helping students make up for the learning loss created by COVID-19
 - Possibly a Council budget request

RECOMMENDATION 7

- Refer workforce readiness to the Chief Development Officer as a need in the community.
 - Based on feedback received from the ESR Agency Survey



Questions?