

The following questions were submitted via chat at the 9/22/20 ESG Forms webinar. Please submit any additional questions to your assigned Homeless Assistance Specialist or the [Homeless Solutions email](#).

- **If we've already created file checklists for our program, can we just update to make sure that we have everything that you have on this checklist? Ours is broken up by tabs.**
 - Yes, if the information is the same as the information within the MSHDA Participant File Checklist, we support any agency using its own checklist. If any checklist is found inadequate upon monitoring review, MSHDA will require the use of its checklist.
- **Would these forms be done if you are only doing ESG-CV Outreach?**
 - MSHDA will provide additional guidance regarding Street Outreach activities and data requirements in a forthcoming webinar. In the interim, please ensure that Street Outreach efforts are coordinated with the HARA so that households experiencing homelessness are quickly assessed for available resources.
- **The 50% AMI is for ESG-CV Prevention, not RRH correct?**
 - Yes, 50% AMI is only applicable under ESG-CV Prevention. Rapid re-housing (RRH) requires households are below 30% AMI for both ESG and ESG-CV.
- **Does the list of at-risk of homelessness factors represent a priority list of who we should serve? Or just a way to segregate and identify the need?**
 - The Homelessness Prevention Certification form includes the approved HUD list of eligible risk factors for households to receive homelessness prevention assistance. This list of risk factors is not intended to prioritize households for homelessness prevention assistance.
- **Do we use the regular ESG forms for the ESG-CV program as well? Or are there other forms for ESG-CV?**
 - These forms are for use with both ESG and ESG-CV services. There are no separate participant forms for ESG-CV.
- **Will HUD waivers continue to be in effect after 10/1/2020 for ESG programs?**
 - On 9/1/20, HUD released additional guidance regarding ESG and ESG-CV waivers. MSHDA will release a quick-reference document to indicate the application of these waivers for both ESG and ESG-CV services.
- **We are using habitability standards for homelessness prevention? Please explain how that will work with EDP services.**
 - The Eviction Diversion Program (EDP) is a separate project and does not have the same inspection requirements as ESG. ESG requires that each unit receiving rental assistance meets all Habitability Inspection standards.
- **Will there be an HQS training this year?**
 - ESG does not require Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspections; Habitability Standards Inspections are required for any unit receiving rental assistance. However, agencies interested in receiving HQS training can contact Ann Mueller at MSHDA for additional information.
- **Regarding the Habitability Standards Inspection, how does turning on the water ensure it is free of contaminations? You should provide a quick training that expresses your expectations clearly. Also, structural stability is not always visible, water contamination is seldomly visible. The inspection check list needs some definitions on what is acceptable or what acceptable ranges are.**

- Habitability Standards Inspections are primarily visual and less stringent than other inspections (for example, HQS). Habitability Standards Inspections are completed using a self-guided document and do not require additional training or certification to complete.
- **We typically talk to the landlord via phone to set up the inspection. Would we have to complete a written notification of inspection still?**
 - Written notification of inspection is an optional form for ESG.
- **Are inspections required to be in person inspections?**
 - During this time, MSHDA allows for ESG funded agencies to complete virtual inspections of units. Inspections may be completed virtually as long as the Habitability Standards can be checked and completed in real time. For example, landlords could use Facetime or other platforms to engage directly with agency staff and walk through the unit to demonstrate each requirement and standard of the inspection checklist.
- **When do we implement these new forms?**
 - All forms are effective 10/1/2020.
- **Are the ESG re-certifications 3 months or 6 months?**
 - Re-certification is required at 6 months under Homelessness Prevention.
- **Is there a scenario where an ESG provider would require a letter/documentation from a DV shelter that services were provided or denied?**
 - ESG providers may request documentation of services from a domestic violence (DV) service provider to satisfy requirements of the Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Certification form or Homelessness Prevention Certification form. All participants also have the option to provide self-certification to satisfy the same requirements.
- **Will these forms be provided in Spanish?**
 - Yes, MSHDA will provide these ESG participant forms in Spanish before the end of this year (2020).
- **Is the current ESG FMR going to be the same as of 10/1/20?**
 - MSHDA will release an updated FMR chart on its ESG website next week, effective 10/1/20. This information is already included within the updated ESG Income Eligibility Worksheet.