

## Meeting Agendas/Info

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:	ITEM _____
01-433	<b>OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA</b>
<b>AGENDA:</b>  AUGUST 20, 2001	<b>SYNOPSIS -</b>  Approval of project and activity funded from the Homeless Shelter Pool for Collaborative Projects as part of the 2001 HUD Consolidated Plan.
<b>SUBJECT:</b>  HOMELESS SHELTER POOL FOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS	<b>FISCAL IMPACT -</b>  Approval allocates \$33,208 of PY '01 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding approved as part of the 2001 HUD Consolidated Plan.
<b>TYPE:</b>  <u>RESOLUTION</u> ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	<b>RECOMMENDATION -</b>  <b>Approval.</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>  JAMES GRANT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	<b>BACKGROUND -</b>  On November 6, 2000, by Roll Call No. 00-4267, the City Council approved the 2001 HUD Consolidated Plan, which included an allocation of \$33,208 of 2001 CDBG funding for a Homeless Shelter Pool for Collaborative Projects. The funding was to be available for homeless service providers who are Affordable Housing and Homeless Partnership (AHHP) members to provide administrative or support services.  The Community Development Department, working in conjunction with the AHHP and Innvision, has developed a Management Service Organization project. This project will be operated by Innvision and will provide services to local homeless shelter and service providers, utilizing \$26,208 of the \$33,208 of 2001 CDBG funding for the period of July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. The project will provide bookkeeping and accounting services, information systems, volunteer coordination, and other services to local homeless shelters and service providers. The initial focus will be on bookkeeping and

accounting services.

A board of "partners" who are committed to the mission, values and vision of the organization govern Innvision. The goal of Innvision is to reduce homelessness in Polk County through housing support, individual skill development and employment. In addition to serving as a 501 (c) (3) corporation, Innvision serves as a Management Service Organization (MSO) providing management services, by contractual agreement, on a fee-for-service basis. The hallmark of Innvision is that it is a collaborative venture dedicated to working with existing organizations to better serve their clients. As an outgrowth of Food Enterprises, Innvision has adopted a process for assessing client needs, defining organizational objectives, and building a plan of action. Three initiatives outlined below represent future activities.

#### COMMUNITY MEALS PROGRAM

Innvision is the sponsor of the community meal program operating four meal sites that serve 250 meals per day. Meals are prepared at Churches United Shelter with meal delivery (to serving sites) provided by Hope Ministries. Additional meal sites may be added in the future along with a Saturday meal. Churches United will be relocating resulting in Innvisions need to relocate their meal program's preparation kitchen facility as well. Potential locations are considered in the context of linking with the Food Bank of Iowa where the majority of food purchases are made.

Currently, the City of Des Moines, the State of Iowa, as well as private foundation funding support the community meal program. No fees are charged to residents. Innvision hopes to integrate the "food service training program" students into the cooking schedule to offer additional employment and training opportunities.

#### BOOKKEEPING & ACCOUNTING SUPPORT SERVICES

Human service agencies, including those in Des Moines, are having to weather economic and service delivery problems that challenge their very existence. Pressures to reduce costs, improve quality and meet stringent accountability standards have resulted in collaborative opportunities among organizations. Agencies have indicated the need for technical assistance in bookkeeping and accounting services along with organizing volunteers.

Innvision has created a program of support in accounting vis-à-vis a partnership with an accounting firm with expertise and experience

working with not-for-profit agencies in Des Moines. The City of Des Moines is offering a one-time grant to launch this initiative. The goal is to elevate accounting services within participating organizations with staff training and improved practices. This service will be offered at "below market" to participating agencies in the first year of the program.

This project takes the form of a Management Service Organization (MSO) where management services necessary for agency operations can be purchased on an as-needed basis. The aggregation of information, accounting, health benefit, grant writing and volunteer services are centrally managed by the MSO at significant savings. Plans include training unemployed persons in bookkeeping services and utilizing these persons in the community where there is a growing demand.

#### COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Innvision is currently exploring the opportunity to link local growers to the marketplace with processing of their produce. Arrangements for processing fresh produce as well as freezing and storing products are part of the "plan design". This project is another collaboration with private and public partners. The direct benefit to homeless and unemployed persons is that Innvision will provide a work force in the process module with training and employment opportunities.

A second element of this initiative involves working with 60 "market vendors" who have produce that is currently going to waste. Innvision is currently meeting with producers to find ways of utilizing produce in their community program and processing venture.

The Community Development Department is also recommending that the remaining \$7,000 be earmarked to pay the agency license fee for the new Service Point web-based Human Services Information Management System. This system is being purchased by the State of Iowa to replace the outdated Counting Homeless Iowans Program (CHIP). Each agency that receives homeless funding from the State or City will be required to purchase a license. The exact price per license is not yet known; however, Service Point representatives have advised that it is expected to be approximately \$200 per license. Any funding remaining after the purchase of the licenses will be added to the funding for the Management Service Organization project.

At their meeting of March 21, 2001, the City's Neighborhood

Revitalization Board (NRB) recommended approval.

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