

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**03-272**

**AGENDA:**

JUNE 23, 2003

**SUBJECT:**

CONTINUUM OF  
CARE GRANT  
APPLICATION

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

MIKE E. MATTHES  
ACTING HOUSING  
SERVICES  
DIRECTOR

**ITEM** \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**SYNOPSIS —**

The City of Des Moines is proposing to submit an application to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Continuum of Care Program funds which will provide needed services to homeless persons in the City of Des Moines and Polk County. The program is designed to develop supportive housing and related services that will allow homeless persons to live as independently as possible.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

The Housing Services Department will administer the \$3,109,004 grant, and five agencies will utilize these funds to assist homeless residents. The City will retain \$81,325 of the grant funds for administrative costs if the application is approved.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND —**

On behalf of the City, the Housing Services Department is proposing to be the applicant for a Continuum of Care grant that includes the HUD geographic areas of the City of Des Moines and Polk County in the amount of \$3,109,004. The application is made up of five Supportive Housing Program (SHP) projects and two Shelter Plus Care (S+C) projects. As the applicant, the City is responsible for the overall management and administration of the grant, including drawdowns, fund distribution, and reporting to HUD. The City will retain \$81,325 of the grant funds for administrative costs if the application is approved.

Project sponsors would carry out the following project activities. Project sponsors are:

Anawim Housing - Shelter + Care Project II - \$724,500 (S+C new application) will provide 25 units of permanent supportive housing targeted toward chronically homeless persons. This proposal will address Goal 1 to end chronic homelessness in our community and will help to fill a gap in serving this very difficult to serve population.

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03-272

JUNE 23, 2003

PAGE TWO

Iowa Homeless Youth Centers - Lighthouse Host Home - \$862,068 (SHP renewal) currently provides transitional living and support services for non-system homeless single parents age 16 to 25, their children, and young single homeless women who are pregnant. The population being served by this project is not involved in the foster care or juvenile justice system. Loss of this program would create a gap in services for homeless pregnant or parenting youth, as there is no other program serving non-system youth.

Iowa Homeless Youth Centers - Buchanan Transitional Living - \$298,174 (SHP renewal) currently provides transitional living and support services in two distinct levels for homeless youth age 16 to 21 who are considered non-system youth. The population served by this project is not involved in the foster care or juvenile justice system and is not served by any other project. Loss of the Buchanan Transitional Living Center would create a gap in services to homeless youth.

American Red Cross, Central Iowa Chapter - Homeless Helpline - \$150,810 (SHP renewal) provides a single point of access to housing and services for homeless persons through the use of a centralized telephone response service that operates 24 hours a day. After an intake and assessment of callers, they are referred to appropriate services. Utilizing the Service Point Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a computerized database is maintained and the progress of clients is tracked through the Continuum of Care system. This project was recently amended to facilitate its merger with the Iowa 211 Human Services Hotline which will start operations later this year.

Primary Health Care, Inc. - Outreach Team - \$170,000 (SHP new application) will provide case management and street outreach services targeting the chronically homeless population. This will address Goal 2 to end chronic homelessness in our community and will help fill a gap in support services for this difficult to serve population.

Iowa Institute for Community Alliances - Iowa Homeless Management Information Network - \$171,284 (SHP HMIS new application) will expand and enhance the services of the current Service Point network to those shelter and service agencies not currently receiving federal funding. In addition, the project will provide technical assistance to participating agencies and facilitate consistent continuum participation in the network.

Anawim Housing - Shelter + Care Project - \$732,168 (S+C renewal) currently provides permanent supportive housing in 117 units for homeless persons in the specific disability groups of HIV/AIDS, seriously mentally ill, dual diagnosis and chronic substance abuse. The gaps analysis has identified permanent supportive housing as the greatest need in the community. This is the only program of its kind in the community and loss of this program would cause a serious widening of the gap in services for these groups.

The application has been developed from the City's Continuum of Care strategy and will address high priority service gaps within the parameters of Continuum of Care eligible activities. This is the sixth year that the City has



been an applicant for this program. The projects are selected based on the priorities in the Continuum of Care with input from the Affordable Housing and Homeless Partnership.