



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 07/12/04
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Agenda Item Type: Resolution
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Communication

Roll Call

Submitted by: Chris M. Johansen, Director, Housing Services Department

SUBJECT—

Approve Continuum of Care Program application.

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 funding which will provide needed services to homeless persons in 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 \$2,691,900 grant, and four agencies will utilize these funds to assist homeless residents. The City will retain approximately \$47,392 of the grant funds for administrative costs if the application is approved.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval.

BACKGROUND—

On behalf of the City of Des Moines, 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 \$2,691,900. The application is made up of four Supportive Housing Program (SHP) projects and one Shelter Plus Care (S+C) project. 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 approximately \$47,392 of the grant funds for administrative costs if the application is approved.

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

YMCA Safe Haven - Permanent Housing Program - \$703,517 (SHP new application) is a new project that will provide 25 units of permanent supportive housing for single men. The program is targeted toward chronically homeless persons and over 70% of the participants will meet the definition of chronic homelessness. This proposal will address Goal 1 - end Chronic Homelessness in our community - and will address the gap (369 beds) in permanent supportive housing for individuals.

YMCA Transitional Housing Program - \$236,741 (SHP renewal) currently provides 120 units of transitional housing and support services for single men. The program will address the gap (331 beds) in transitional housing for individuals.

House of Mercy Transitional Housing Program - \$579,466 (SHP renewal) currently provides 64 units (195 beds) of transitional housing for families with children. Although the Gaps Analysis shows a surplus of 102 beds of transitional housing for families, the recent sale of the Good Samaritan property to a private owner has resulted in the loss of 41 beds for families and 102 beds for individuals and makes it important to maintain the transitional housing capacity of existing programs.

Rainbow Recovery Center - Bailey House - \$454,936 (SHP renewal) currently provides 13 units (26 beds) of permanent supportive housing for women with children. The project provides housing and support services for women suffering from substance abuse and/or mental disorders. The project will address the gap (349 beds) in permanent supportive housing for families with children.

Anawim Housing Shelter + Care Program - \$717,240 (S+C renewal) currently provides 94 units (314 beds) of permanent supportive housing for families with children. The gaps analysis shows the need for an additional 349 beds of permanent housing for families with children.

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 seventh year that the City has been an applicant for this program. The projects are selected based on the priorities in the Continuum of Care. The Affordable Housing and Homeless Partnership (AHHP) Continuum of Care Committee provides considerable assistance in the development of the application and funding priorities. The AHHP Board adopted the

Committee's recommendations at their meeting on June 30, 2004 and recommended that the City Council approve the application.