



Agenda Item:

33

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 10/25/04
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Communication No.:

Agenda Item Type: Resolution
No.:

Roll Call

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

SUBJECT—

Approval of 2003 Supportive Housing Program (SHP) Renewal Grant Agreement with HUD to help support the American Red Cross, Central Iowa Chapter – Homeless Helpline.

SYNOPSIS—

Approval of 2003 SHP Renewal Grant Agreement by and between HUD and the City of Des Moines for supplemental funding for local homeless programs to address service gaps. This renewal grant will enable the American Red Cross, Central Iowa Chapter – Homeless Helpline to provide a single point of access to housing and services for homeless persons.

FISCAL IMPACT—

This grant award totals \$150,810, which the Housing Services Department will administer. The City will retain \$3,591 (approximately 2.4 percent of the total grant award) of the grant funds for administrative costs.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

On behalf of the City, the Housing Services Department submitted an application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for SHP funding to provide supplemental funding to address service gaps in local homeless programs in Des Moines and Polk County. As the applicant, the City is responsible for the overall management and administration of the grant, including drawdowns, fund distribution, and reporting to HUD.

HUD has forwarded a renewal grant award of SHP funding totaling \$150,810, for a two-year period from 2004 to 2006, which requires Council approval. The renewal grant award will enable the Central Iowa Chapter of the American Red Cross to provide 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 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 merged with the Iowa 211 Human Services Hotline.