



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

July 24, 2006

Agenda Item No. 35  
Roll Call No. 06-  
Communication No. 06-450  
Submitted by: Chris M. Johansen, Housing  
Services Director

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Continuum of Care Program Environmental Review Determinations.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of required Environmental Review Determinations for Continuum of Care projects to meet compliance for acceptance of U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homeless Grants.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,726,919

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/Homeless Grants 2006-2007 Operating Budget, Pages 315-317, SP039 CDD49900.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On behalf of the City, the Housing Services Department applied 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 \$2,485,522. The application is made up of seven 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 draw downs, fund distribution and reporting to HUD. HUD has notified the City of the grant award amounts totaling \$1,726,919 and of the City's need to submit required Environmental Review Determinations for the Continuum of Care projects. The City will retain approximately \$24,536 of the grant funds for administrative costs.

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

- House of Mercy - Supportive Housing Program (\$289,733): This is a two-year renewal of an existing transitional housing program for up to 120 individual women and/or women with children. The project provides housing and a wide array of supportive services including case management, counseling, medical and dental health care, transportation and job search assistance.
- Primary Health Care - Enhancement (\$256,109): This is a one-year renewal of a supportive service program that provides outreach, case management, healthcare, substance abuse and mental health services. The program will assist up to 1,100 adults and children to transition from the street to decent affordable housing through outreach, referral and support services. Primary Health Care also

conducts site visits to all Des Moines area shelters to provide health screenings and treat medical problems.

- **Primary Health Care - Street Outreach (\$85,000):** This is a one-year renewal of a supportive services project to assist 25 chronically homeless persons to obtain needed medical and mental health services and move from the streets to transitional and/or permanent housing.
- **YMCA - Transitional Housing Program (\$102,217):** This is a three-year renewal of a program that provides transitional housing and support services to 489 disabled and/or chronically homeless men. Staff provides case management and assists clients to address substance abuse, mental health, or medical problems, find employment and move onto permanent housing.
- **West Des Moines Human Services - Transitional Housing Program (\$87,325):** This is a one-year renewal of a program that provides transitional housing and support services in four single-family homes and can serve up to 19 adults and children annually. The agency also provides case management, employment assistance, transportation, and other basic needs. Transitional housing, especially for large families, is an identified need in the Consolidated Plan and the Continuum of Care.
- **Red Cross - Homeless Helpline (\$75,405):** This is a one-year renewal of the phone service that will direct 1,400 homeless callers annually to appropriate shelter and services. The Red Cross also operates the 211 Human Services hotline.
- **Iowa Institute for Community Alliances - Iowa Homeless Management Information System (\$85,642):** This is a one-year renewal of a federally required Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The agency provides the "Service Point" software used throughout the metro area and also statewide. The Institute also provides training to agency staff and is working with the Red Cross to integrate "Service Point" with the Red Cross 211 system.
- **Anawim - Shelter Plus Care (\$745,488):** This is a one-year renewal of a program that provides permanent housing to chronically homeless individuals. It is similar to the Section 8 housing program and subsidizes up to 100% of the rent. Federal regulations require that case management be provided by other agencies locally, the cost of which is used as match for the program. Human service agencies are very willing to provide case management for their clients who obtain decent affordable housing. Landlords are also interested in the program because the lease is among Anawim, the landlord, and the client, and Anawim follows up on any landlord/client problems. Des Moines' program recently won a "Cream of the Crop" award from the Omaha HUD office.

The application was 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 eighth 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 May 2, 2005 and recommended that the City Council approve the application.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: May 23, 2005

Roll Call Number: 05-1277

Action: Continuum of Care Program application made to HUD for Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Shelter Plus Care (S+C) supplemental funding for local homeless programs to address service gaps. (Council Communication No. 05-269) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Date: May 18, 2005

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) received application information.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**