



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

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| Date | April 20, 2009 |
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| Agenda Item No. | 60 |
| Roll Call No. | <u>09-</u> |
| Communication No. | <u>09-221</u> |
| Submitted by: Richard A. Clark, City Manager | |

AGENDA HEADING:

Public hearing and approval of the proposed substantial amendment to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2008 Consolidated Plan to include the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the proposed substantial amendment to the 2008 Consolidated Plan to include the recently enacted Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), which allocates funding to the Rapid Re-Housing program and Polk County General Assistance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,763,874

Funding Source: HUD Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Congress recently enacted the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) under Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The City of Des Moines has been allocated \$1,763,874, contingent on HUD approving a substantial amendment to the City's 2008 HUD Consolidated Plan. Because of the various fiscal and program years used by entitlement cities across the country, HUD chose 2008, since all eligible communities would either have their Consolidated Plans underway or recently completed. The amendment forms require proposed activities and estimates of funding at this time.

Because of similar responsibilities in advising the City Council on the allocation of federal funds, the Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) and the Polk County Housing Continuum (PCHC) Board formed a joint committee to review, discuss and recommend various options for the use of the stimulus funds that have been allocated to the City.

There are four categories of eligible activities for the HPRP program: financial assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, data collection and evaluation and administrative costs.

The amendment to the 2008 Consolidated Plan, must briefly explain how the funds will be used within the local Continuum of Care. By regulation, the funds under HPRP are intended to target two populations of persons facing housing instability: 1) individuals and families who are currently in housing but are at risk of becoming homeless and need temporary rent or utility assistance to prevent

them from becoming homeless or assistance to move to another unit (prevention), and 2) individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness (residing in emergency or transitional shelters or on the street) and need temporary assistance in order to obtain housing and retain it (rapid re-housing).

In September 2008, the City applied for SHP funding for a demonstration Rapid Re-Housing program. The program was not funded at that time, but is now eligible for HPRP funds. The demonstration program developed by the Polk County Housing Continuum featured extensive collaboration between six agencies that provide services to the homeless. As proposed in the substantial amendment, the City will contract with Anawim to administer the grant and manage the housing program; similarly to the Shelter Plus Care program. Anawim would also enter into agreements with Primary Health Care, Children and Families of Iowa, Hawthorn Hill, Home, Inc. and House of Mercy to provide assessment, supportive services and case management. The project would serve 60 – 70 households over a 3-year period, with households limited to 18 months of rental assistance. This program will receive \$900,000 of HPRP funds.

The Joint Committee also recommended the City contracting with Polk County General Assistance to provide short term prevention assistance for rent, utilities, etc. The funding for these services will be \$740,404. Polk County may enter into agreements with local agencies to provide assessment, support services and case management.

In addition, approximately \$35,277 (2%) is set aside for the Homeless Management Information System, which is a program requirement for reporting purposes, and up to \$88,193 (5%) for administration.

With the limited amount of time available to develop and implement these new programs, the Joint Committee of the NRB and PCHC has been effective and efficient in meeting the requirements of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program and has put the community in the position of being able to provide needed assistance to homeless and near homeless households county-wide.

It is recommended that the substantial amendment be approved and submitted to HUD as recommended by the NRB and PCHC.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: April 6, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-547

Action: On Proposed Substantial Amendment to the Fourth (2008) Year Action Plan of the 2005-2009 HUD Consolidated Plan for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, (4-20-09). Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: April 15, 2009

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Polk County Housing Continuum (PCHC) recommended approval of the substantial amendment as proposed.

Date: April 18, 2009

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) recommended approval of the substantial amendment as proposed.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Council approval of the Grant Agreement with HUD for HPRP funding.

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