



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development

Date: January 20, 2014

To: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Chair, Community Development & Regulatory Services Committee

Referral To: Council Member John Quincy, Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Subject: 2014 Emergency Solutions Grant Services Funding Recommendations

Recommendation:

1. Approve up to \$262,768 of Fiscal Year 2014 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for the following service initiatives:
 - a) Up to \$125,500 for St. Stephens or an affiliated entity; and
 - b) Up to \$137,268 for Catholic Charities or an affiliated entity
2. Authorize the appropriate staff to execute the necessary contracts with the organizations receiving ESG funding awards.

Previous Directives:

The Emergency Solutions Grant program was included in the City's 2014 Consolidated Plan, which was approved by the City Council on May 9, 2014.

St. Stephens: On December 10, 2012, the Minneapolis City Council approved up to \$203,334 in ESG Services funding for St. Stephen's Human Services. On December 13, 2013, the Minneapolis City Council approved up to \$128,750 in ESG Services funding for St. Stephen's Human Services.

Catholic Charities: On December 10, 2012, the Minneapolis City council approved up to \$71,724 in ESG Services funding for Catholic Charities Housing First program. On December 13, 2013, the Minneapolis City Council approved up to \$31,250 in ESG Services funding for Catholic Charities.

Department Information

Prepared by:	Tiffany Glasper, Senior Project Coordinator, 612-673-5221	
Approved by:	Charles T. Lutz, Deputy Executive Director	_____
	D. Craig Taylor, Executive Director, CPED	_____
Presenter in Committee:	Mikkel Beckmen, Director, Office to End Homelessness	

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- City Goals: In five years all Minneapolis residents will have a better quality of life and access to housing and services.
- Sustainability Targets: Special Needs Housing - Rehabilitation
- Comprehensive Plan: 4.10 – Minneapolis will increase its housing that is affordable to low and moderate income households.

Supporting Information

The federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program provides funds that may be used for a variety of purposes including addressing specific housing stability service needs of persons who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness. The funds that are being issued can be used for services similar to those under the Federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, which ended in May 2012. Those services include Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing: both components fund housing relocation and stabilization services (including rental application fees, security deposits, utility deposits or payments, last month's rent and housing search and placement activities). These funds may also be used for short- or medium-term rental assistance for those who are at-risk of becoming homeless or transitioning to stable housing.

The City, in collaboration with the Minneapolis and Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness issued an RFP on October 24, 2014 seeking responses from service providers within Minneapolis. Staff received five (5) proposals. The proposals were reviewed by staff from both the City and Hennepin County. The following proposals are being recommended for funding:

Catholic Charities, \$137,268 – For continuing and expanding their Housing First program, which focuses on housing and stabilizing homeless adults without children in crisis housing through a rapid re-housing program that focuses on housing search and placement as well as limited financial assistance.

St. Stephens, \$125,500 – For continuing their Family Re-Housing program, which provides intense case management and rental assistance for high barrier homeless families. Services include a complete assessment of needs, counseling, advocacy, intensive in-person case management, connections to social services, ongoing evaluation and housing with appropriate supports to enable self-sufficiency and prevent return to shelter.

Three additional applications were received. One of these was discounted because it was not received by the stated deadline and was a start-up program without a proven track record. One application was also for a start-up program without a proven track record and another relied on a model which staff did not believe could be supported by the current ESG regulations.

The review of these proposals included the following elements:

1. Ability of the applicant to serve Minneapolis resident homeless families and single adults without children including unaccompanied youth who reside in a Hennepin County funded homeless shelter
2. Cost of proposed services
3. Financial responsibility and capacity, including whether or not the applicant, any affiliates, subsidiaries, officers or directors have filed for federal bankruptcy protection within seven years of the date of the RFP

4. Ability of the applicant to provide for the participation of at least one homeless or formerly homeless person(s) in a policy-making function in the organization
5. Ability of the applicant to participate in a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and will be required to collect data on all universal elements as defined in HMIS
6. Overall quality, thoroughness and clarity of the applicant's proposal
7. Applicant's capacity, programming readiness, general qualifications and experience of staff
8. Proposal's ability to meet HUD and Heading Home Hennepin priorities, goals and objectives.
9. Applicant's financial and operating capacity, management approach and involvement
10. SUBP participation and insurance coverage as defined for the services