



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations Office of Grants & Special Projects

Date: May 5, 2015

To: Honorable Lisa Goodman, Chair, Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee

Referral to: Honorable John Quincy, Chair, Ways and Means/Budget Committee

Subject: Funding recommendations for 2015 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) entitlement grant

Recommendation:

1. Approve funding from the City's 2015 HOPWA entitlement grant to Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP) not to exceed \$504,500 and to Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA) not to exceed \$503,613; and
2. Authorize appropriate City staff to execute the contracts with MAP and Metro HRA, as necessary to implement the City's 2015 HOPWA grant program.

Previous Directives:

February 13, 2015: City Council authorized proper City officers to issue a RFP for implementation of the 2015 HOPWA program.

December 10, 2014: **2014R-519** Council Adopted 2015 City Budget authorizing proper City officers to execute and/or to carry out the intent of the 2015 Consolidated Plan program allocations including CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA entitlement grants.

Prepared by: Matthew Courtney, Senior Resource Coordinator (612) 673-3256

Approved by: Gene Ranieri, Director, IGR/Grants & Special Projects _____

Presenters in Committee: : Matthew Courtney, Senior Resource Coordinator

Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approved RFP on January 29, 2015

Financial Impact

- No financial impact
- Other financial impact: None
- Request provided to the Finance Department through PRC and the Committee Coordinator: This is part of HUD sponsored consolidated plan funding included in the annual budget process.

Community Impact

- Other: Provides housing opportunities for persons with HIV/AIDS for the 13 County Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (ESMA)

Supporting Information:

Each year, as part of the Consolidated Plan, the City of Minneapolis receives Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) entitlement funds from U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As the largest city in the metropolitan area, Minneapolis is responsible for administering these funds to address the housing needs for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) who are low-income and homeless or at-risk of homelessness throughout the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (EMSA). The EMSA comprises 13 counties, including 11 Minnesota counties and two Wisconsin counties.

To achieve this undertaking, the City of Minneapolis annually solicits applications for HOPWA funding through an RFP announced approximately at the end of February. A review committee evaluates the proposals based upon the funding priorities.

The City of Minneapolis coordinates with the Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition (Coalition), a community planning and advisory group, to identify the housing needs and to recommend HOPWA funding priorities. The Coalition is open to all interested parties. Current membership comprises public and non-profit entities, including: HUD, State of Minnesota, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, Clare Housing, MN AIDS Project, The Salvation Army, and YWCA of St. Paul.

Based on the Coalition's recommendation, renewal of existing programs (providing continuum of care strategies) is a HOPWA funding priority; if funds appropriated by HUD exceed the amount necessary to continue those programs at comparable levels (or if priorities change to address changing needs), then funds should be made available for capital projects. The City of Minneapolis considers capital requests to be a top priority. These priorities are consistent with the Consolidated Plan.

HUD's 2015 HOPWA appropriation does not exceed the 2014 funding level, and no capital requests were received.

The 2015 review committee included staff from the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis-Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness.

Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority and Minnesota AIDS Project are recommended for renewal funding to continue direct housing assistance at levels proportionately equivalent to that of prior years. Both proposals seek to continue eligible programming consistent with full continuums of case management that provide supportive service access and tenant-based housing to low-income PLWHA who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

Two additional proposals (Clare Housing and Resource, Inc.) were received and evaluated. These proposals are not recommended for funding due to a lack in federal resources. They will be referred to other funders for assistance to identify alternative funding prospects.

The available 2015 HOPWA funds are \$1,008,113 but the four proposals requested a total of \$1,670,721. The gap between federal resources and requested funding is \$662,608.