

City of Minneapolis

Request for Committee Action

To: Community Development & Regulatory Services
Date: 5/17/2016
Referral: Ways & Means
From: Community Planning & Economic Development
Lead Staff: Tiffany Glasper – Senior Project Coordinator, CPED Residential Finance, x5221
Presented by: Tiffany Glasper – Senior Project Coordinator, CPED Residential Finance, x5221
File Type: Action
Subcategory: Contracts & Agreements

Subject:

2015 ESG Service Funding Recommendations

Description:

Approving up to \$310,627 of Fiscal Year 2015 Emergency Solutions Grant funds for the following Rapid Rehousing (ESG Services) initiatives:

- a) Up to \$155,313.50 for St. Stephens Human Services, or an affiliated entity; and
- b) Up to \$155,313.50 for Catholic Charities or an affiliated entity

Authorizing the appropriate staff to execute the necessary contract documents with the organizations receiving the ESG funds.

Previous Actions:

The Emergency Solutions Grant program was included in the City's 2015 Consolidated Plan, which was approved by the City Council on April 17, 2015.

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. On January 30, 2014, the Minneapolis City Council approved up to \$125,500 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. On January 30, 2014, the Minneapolis City Council approved up to \$137,268 in ESG Services funding for Catholic Charities.

Ward/Address:

Not Applicable

Background/Analysis:

The federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program provides funds that may be used for a variety of purposes including addressing specific housing stability services needs of persons who are homeless or who are threatened with homelessness.

The funds that are being awarded 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. That RFP contained language whereby a grant recipient could receive additional funds and a contract extension via a satisfactory performance evaluation, eliminating the need for staff to issue this same RFP annually.

Although the RFP contained language relative to a contract extension, the Council action brought forward at that time did not contain language sufficient for staff to enter into the necessary contracts.

Staff are seeking authorization to extend current contracts or enter into new contracts with St. Stephen's Human Services and Catholic Charities for the following activities:

Catholic Charities, \$155,313.50 – 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, \$155,313.50 – 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.

City staff evaluated contractor performance through HMIS reporting and program monitoring tools addressing a review of the following elements of which the current contractors are providing satisfactory results:

1. Ability of the provider 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 provider, 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 provider to provide for the participation of at least one homeless formerly homeless person(s) in a policy-making function in the organization
5. Ability of the provider 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 provider's proposal
7. Provider's capacity, programming readiness, general qualifications and experience of staff

8. Provider's ability to meet HUD and Heading Home Hennepin priorities, goals and objectives.
9. Provider's financial and operating capacity, management approach and involvement SUBP participation and insurance coverage as defined for the services

Financial Review:

No additional appropriation required, amount included in current budget.