

Staff Report

Agenda Item: Hennepin County NRP Fund Allocation for Midtown Greenway Street Outreach Worker

Advisory Information

Title: **Approve \$74,309.25 of remaining Hennepin County NRP funds to be allocated to St. Stephen's Human Services for a street outreach worker to assist with reducing homelessness along the Midtown Greenway.**

Requested Action: Action Discussion Informational

Prepared By: Steven Gallagher

Date: **August 20, 2019**

Attachments: Hennepin County Board Action Request
State NRP Law excerpt
Hennepin County NRP Funds Allocation Policy
Hennepin County 2nd 7.5% NRP Fund Allocations

Requested Action

Approve the requested allocation of \$74,309.25 of Hennepin County NRP funds for St. Stephen's Human Services for a street outreach worker along the Midtown Greenway, and transmit the plan for approval and appropriation by the Minneapolis City Council.

Background

On August 6, 2019, the Hennepin County Board approved the allocation of \$74,309 of Hennepin County NRP Funds to St. Stephen's Human Services.

Discussion

The State NRP Law (469.1831, subdivision 4) required 7.5% of the "Program Money" to be provided to Hennepin County for social services. This was known as the "2nd 7.5% NRP Funds." This fund was capitalized from 1990 through 1999 for a total of \$5,762,093. The State NRP Law requires that all allocations from this fund be approved by the NRP Policy Board and the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. An excerpt of the State NRP Law is attached.

The County began authorizing expenditures from that fund in 1992. On October 3, 1995, the County Board passed guidelines (attached) for the allocation of the remaining amount in that fund. This allocation methodology was not mandated by State Law; rather, it was the process adopted by the County Board to govern its allocation of the NRP funds. A total of 70 allocations were made from the fund, the most recent in September 2014. A summary of the County NRP Fund allocations is attached.

Most Hennepin County NRP funds have been expended. A total of \$74,309.25 remains from funds that were previously allocated and contracted, but for which the contract was closed and a balance remained.

The County Board has now approved an allocation of the remaining funds to contract with St. Stephen's Human Services for an additional street outreach worker. The County Board Action Request (attached) states that street outreach workers connect closely with the County's Coordinated Entry System and other support service organizations. This funding also will add to other funds already leveraged for the street outreach program, both public and private. The recent increase in unsheltered homelessness in Hennepin County has created a need for more capacity in outreach services along the Midtown Greenway and other areas for this population. This funding allocation request is consistent with those neighborhood plans and the increased need in the community.

The City's Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) is already working closely with Hennepin County and St. Stephen's Human Services on similar street outreach activities. CPED will contract the County NRP funds to augment those current activities.

Recommendations

- 1. Approve the \$74,309.25 allocation of Hennepin County NRP funds to St. Stephen's Human Services to support one additional street outreach worker along the Midtown Greenway and other areas of homelessness.**
- 2. Recommend transmittal of the request to the City Council for approval and appropriation.**