

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 17, 2013

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER /s/

DOCKET TITLE:

..TITLE

Consideration of a grant application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Services

..BODY

ISSUE: Submission of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services. The grant application deadline is April 26, 2013 and the total requested funding is \$175,000.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the submission of the collaborative grant application for the Emergency Solutions Grant funds to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

BACKGROUND: The providers of homeless services for the City of Alexandria have annually applied for ESG funding. For FY 2012-2013, the City of Alexandria and Carpenter's Shelter were awarded \$440,370 in ESG funding to support emergency shelter operations, prevention, diversion from shelter, and rapid re-housing funding to those families experiencing or in danger of experiencing homelessness in Alexandria.

DISCUSSION: DHCD issued guidance for the 2013 ESG for homeless services. The City of Alexandria, specifically the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and non-profits within the community have annually applied for these funds in coordinated, but separate, applications. This year, the State of Virginia is requiring a single, collaborative application from The Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness in the City of Alexandria (The Partnership),

with the City of Alexandria as the designated lead agency. The Partnership is a collaborative group of Alexandria public and private partners providing housing and homeless services.

The goal is a strategic, community-based application that supports the following outcomes:

- Reduction in the number of households entering homelessness (Prevention/Diversion);
- Reduction in the length of time households experience homelessness (Rapid Re-Housing);
- Reduction in the number of households re-entering homelessness (Prevention).

The Partnership identified agencies able to most effectively deliver the respective services. DCHS has been identified as the grantee best aligned to provide diversion/prevention services to the community, and would be the grantee for that portion of the ESG application. Carpenter's Shelter and New Hope Housing, Inc. have been identified as the grantees for the Rapid Re-Housing portion of the grant for the community. If awarded, each grantee will receive separate contracts.

The requested funding amounts in the grant application:

- City of Alexandria, DCHS - \$175,000 for Homeless Prevention/Diversion Services
- Carpenter's Shelter - \$175,000 for Rapid Re-Housing Services
- New Hope Housing, Inc. - \$175,000 for Rapid Re-Housing Services

DCHS is requesting funds for rental assistance for individual or families in danger of experiencing homelessness. Carpenter's Shelter and New Hope Housing, Inc. are requesting funds to help persons who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

The proposed services align with the Federal, State and City strategic plans and are supported by analysis of the community need per the 2013 Point-in-Time the Housing Needed Assessment for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the City. This grant application is also consistent with the current City Council Strategic Plan, Goal 7, Objective 1: *Promote a continuum of affordable housing opportunities for all residents, especially those most in need.*

FISCAL IMPACT: If awarded, the community will receive \$525,000 in homeless services funding, and DCHS will receive \$175,000 for prevention service. No match is required for this grant.

ATTACHMENT:

None.

STAFF:

Debra R. Collins, Deputy City Manager
Mike Gilmore, Department Director, DCHS
Dennis McKinney, Director, Center for Economic Support, DCHS
Jim Fleming, Fiscal Officer III, DCHS
Pam Michell, Executive Director, New Hope Housing, Inc.

Lisette Bishins, Executive Director, Carpenter's Shelter