



Date: November 22, 2016

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Reginald J. Johnson, Director
Department of Community Development

Subject: Contract between the City of Durham and the Housing Authority of the City of Durham for the provision of Tenant Based Rental Assistance services

Executive Summary

In late December 2014 the City of Durham was notified by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) that Durham had met the federal threshold to become a direct recipient of Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) funding. HOPWA funds benefit lower-income (below 80% Area Median Income) HIV+ individuals, and households with a person who is HIV+ with housing-related needs including case management. HOPWA funds managed by the City of Durham serve the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (EMSA) that includes Durham, Orange, Chatham and Person Counties.

Recommendation

The Department of Community Development recommends that City Council approve the 18-month Contract with the Housing Authority of the City of Durham for the delivery of the HOPWA-funded Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) voucher program administration.

Background

When the City was awarded HOPWA funds in Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the Department of Community Development entered into a six-month contract with Duke University's Partners In Caring program, the previous recipient of HOPWA funds through the State of North Carolina, in order to maintain continuity of services for clients already being served by the program. An element of the HOPWA program the City took over from the State of North Carolina was the administration of up to 16 Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) vouchers. Duke University Partners In Caring sub-contracted that portion of their contract to the Housing Authority of the City of Durham (DHA). When the City was notified that Partners In Caring would not be continuing as the City's vendor for HOPWA services, the Department of Community Development reached out to the DHA who agreed to continue providing monthly rent payments to landlords, thereby maintaining continuity of services from July 2016. Sixteen households were served under the six-month contract with Duke..

Issues/Analysis

HOPWA TBRA vouchers are intended to provide stable affordable rental housing for the 16 eligible low- and moderate-income HIV+ households. TBRA households receive monthly rental payments paid on their behalf within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area, and receive Supportive Services case management services that link them to community resources that include counseling, health, nutrition, dental care, and medical and health maintenance resource referrals. The Department of Community Development sought to maintain a continuity of services through a sole source provider for this specialized HOPWA voucher program. The Housing Authority of the City of Durham had the capacity to deliver HUD housing voucher program administration, and to serve the large four-county Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Alternatives

If the Contract with the Housing Authority of the City of Durham is not approved by Council, it would be necessary to competitively post a Request For Proposals to identify a new vendor for FY 2015-2016 and FY 2016-2017 HOPWA TBRA administration. Clients would lose monthly TBRA payments and face eviction until such time as new vendor could be identified and new contract approved and executed.

Financial Impact

This 18-month contract for \$148,705.75 uses FY 2015-2016 HOPWA funds (\$48,705.75), plus \$100,000.00 from the FY 2016-2017 HOPWA allocation to administer the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) element of the HOPWA program. The City will retain 3% (\$13,298.39) of the combined HOPWA funds to administer the DSS and DHA HOPWA programs.

EBOP Summary

This item relates to a federal grant and an agreement for continuity of services made to fulfill the grant requirements. It was not reviewed for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

Attachments:

- Attachment I: Scope of Work and Budget FY 2015-2016
- Attachment II: Scope of Work and Budget FY 2016-2017