

Date: November 20, 2018

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Reginald J. Johnson, Director
Department of Community Development
Subject: Urban Ministries of Durham
FY 2017-2018 CDBG Contract for Case Management Services

Executive Summary

On April 17, 2017, City Council approved the FY 2017-2018 Annual Action Plan for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and General Funds. This Action Plan authorized the funding of this contract contingent upon execution by the City Manager. This contract provides \$90,000.00 in CDBG funds to Urban Ministries of Durham for case management services to single adults experiencing homelessness to assist them in regaining permanent housing.

Recommendation

The Department of Community Development recommends City Council authorize the expenditure of \$90,000.00 in CDBG funds and authorize the City Manager to execute a Subrecipient Contract with Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) for support of its case management services to single adults experiencing homelessness.

Background

In addition to sheltering approximately thirty homeless families annually, UMD provides emergency shelter every year to approximately 700 single adults experiencing homelessness. This contract enables UMD to continue providing low barrier emergency shelter access, immediate vulnerability assessment, housing eligibility determination and prioritization, and case management services to a minimum of 500 single adults seeking shelter at UMD during the contract period. On average, UMD case managers currently carry 35-40 individuals on their caseload at any one time. UMD reports that exits to permanent housing increased by 39% in FY 2017-2018.

The primary goal of case management services to single adults at UMD is to assist people in rapidly regaining permanent housing that can be sustained. Specific output and outcome goals for this contract include:

- Completing a Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) assessment for each adult who receives case management services subsidized with this grant and entering the VI-SPDAT into the client's record in Durham's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- Ensuring that the average length of a shelter stay per client assisted with these funds is 60 days or less.
- Ensuring that a minimum of 30% of the clients served within the grant period exit emergency shelter to permanent, affordable housing.

Issues and Analysis

HMIS data show that, in any given year, 65%-70% or more of the people experiencing homelessness in Durham seek emergency shelter unaccompanied by children, or as single adults. In the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, UMD provided emergency shelter to 680 single adults, according to the HMIS.

With these funds, UMD proposes to provide limited, short-term case management support to a minimum of 500 single adults during the contract term. Four staff would provide an average of 8.32 hours of case management to each of the 500 persons assisted. This support would be supplemented monthly by over 900 hours of supervised volunteer time contributed by social work interns; these hours provide a partial match for the CDBG funds. \$90,000.00 in CDBG funds would provide over forty percent of the \$214,515.00 UMD has budgeted for case management for single adults.

Alternatives

The Council may elect not to authorize the execution of this contract and/or not to approve the amount allocated, in which case the capacity of Urban Ministries of Durham to effectively assist homeless single adults to regain permanent housing would be reduced.

Financial Impact

FY 2017-2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the amount of \$90,000.00 have been allocated and are available for this contract.

There will be no impact to the General Fund.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

This item is part of an annual federal grant process and was not reviewed by the Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance Department for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

Attachment

Subrecipient Contract