



March 19, 2019

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Reginald J. Johnson, Director
Department of Community Development
Subject: Families Moving Forward 2017-2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Subrecipient Contract for Comprehensive Case Management Services

Executive Summary

On May 7, 2018, City Council approved the FY 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Agreement (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and General Funds. This Action Plan included CDBG funds in the amount of \$87,000.00 to Families Moving Forward (FMF) for Comprehensive Case Management services to homeless families with children that reside in their shelter. FMF provides comprehensive case management to their shelter guests experiencing homelessness to assist them in their goal of obtaining and maintaining permanent housing.

Recommendation

The Community Development Department (CDD) recommends City Council authorize the expenditure of \$87,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and authorize the City Manager to execute a Subrecipient Contract with Families Moving Forward for support of their Comprehensive Case Management Services to homeless families with children.

Background

In January 2016, Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network (DIHN) and Genesis Home, two nonprofit organizations offering temporary shelter to families, merged to form a single emergency shelter agency that was renamed Families Moving Forward. The merger of the two agencies was intended as part of Durham's Collaborative to End Family Homelessness to be a more effective means of addressing the needs of the families served and to eventually become the single emergency shelter for families with children.

FMF is located at the previous Genesis Home site and provides a temporary home to families faced with the crisis of homelessness. Neighbors Experiencing Success Together (the NEST) is the emergency shelter program for homeless families with children that accommodates 21 families at a time with a goal to help them to quickly move to permanent, affordable housing. The NEST offer comprehensive case management to these families and provides them with the skills and resources needed to obtain and retain permanent, sustainable housing. The agency's Branching Out aftercare program assists those that have moved on to permanent housing with the skills needed to retain this housing. With support from CDBG, FMF's goal is to serve a minimum of 80 families with children in FY 18-19 by providing assistance to 21 families at a time.

Issues and Analysis

FMF's goal is to ensure that families experiencing homelessness quickly move to permanent homes of their own. FMF's comprehensive case management program works with families to perform an assessment that identifies their immediate and ongoing needs. This includes addressing the financial and other barriers that prevent them from obtaining permanent housing and achieving economic self-sufficiency. To aid in housing stability, case management counselors assist shelter guests to secure employment with income adequate enough to meet the family's financial needs. Services provided include but are not limited to employment counseling and job search, skill assessment, education and training opportunities, financial literacy, and permanent housing search.

FMF's case management approach is family focused, prioritizing the most critical needs of not only adults, but also children through socio-emotional screenings and programs that emphasize important life skills to also address their developmental needs. FMF's Case Management coordinates programming for children ages 0-5 to ensure that children's health and educational needs are met.

As the effectiveness of the Durham Continuum of Care's (CoC) coordinated entry and diversion services, the individuals that enter the shelter at FMF will have multiple challenges and more complex issues combined with little or no income. Families identified as living on the streets or in their cars are prioritized to the top of the CoC referral lists. In 2017, nearly two-thirds of FMF families were literally homeless. This further supports the need for effective and comprehensive case management that has proven to be essential in providing families experiencing homelessness with the resources and skills needed to develop a capacity for self-sufficiency.

Alternatives

The Council may elect not to authorize the execution of this contract and/or not to approve the amount allocated, in which case Families Moving Forward, whose primary focus is on services to homeless families with children in Durham, would have fewer resources to effectively assist these families move to permanent housing and maintain a life of self-sufficiency.

Financial Impact

CDBG funds in the amount of \$87,0000.00 are budgeted and available for this project.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

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

Attachments

Subrecipient Contract