



Date: July 6, 2021

To: Wanda S. Page, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Reginald J. Johnson, Director
Community Development
Subject: Interlocal Agreement with Durham County for the provision of Housing Assistance and related Supportive Services for two years, 2021-2023

Executive Summary

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program provides housing assistance and related supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or unstably housed. The program provides housing and other support to help the most vulnerable households with multiple health and life challenges to achieve housing stability. HOPWA serves as a cost-effective housing intervention that increases access to care, reduces emergency care costs, and improves life outcomes for beneficiaries. HOPWA funds managed by the City of Durham serve the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (EMSA) that includes Durham, Orange, Chatham and Person counties.

Since February 23, 2017 the City of Durham has had a contract with Durham County through the Department of Social Services (DSS) to administer housing support services under the HOPWA program. This is a multi-year activity requiring corresponding multi-year funding commitments that will ensure long-term funding of HOPWA eligible activities.

The proposed Interlocal Agreement will allow the continuation of existing housing assistance being provided by DSS through June 30, 2023. The Interlocal Agreement, in the amount of \$582,703, will allow for the continuation of services including short term rental mortgage and utility assistance, permanent housing placement and related supportive services to prevent homelessness. DSS provides an essential component in housing assistance for this targeted special needs population; the coordination and delivery of support services. These supportive services include assessment and case management, with referrals for substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, nutritional services, job training and placement assistance, and assistance with daily living.

Motion

To authorize the expenditure of \$126,622.22 of FY2019, \$259,223 of FY2020, and \$320,630 of FY2021 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds;

To resolve that the City Manager be authorized to execute a Project Sponsor Interlocal Agreement with Durham County for the provision of Housing Assistance and related Supportive Services; and

To authorize the City Manager or designee to approve the addition of unexpended funds from the previous HOPWA grant agreements between the City of Durham and Durham County by amendment without further City Council action.

Background

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOPWA program provides housing assistance and related supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or unstably housed. The program provides housing and other support to help the most vulnerable households with multiple health and life challenges to achieve housing stability. HOPWA serves as a cost-effective housing intervention that increases access to care, reduces emergency care costs, and improves life outcomes for beneficiaries. HOPWA funds managed by the City of Durham serve the EMSA that includes Durham, Orange, Chatham and Person counties.

The City of Durham is awarded HOPWA funds annually to support people living with HIV/AIDS in the Durham Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area. Program funds are used to assist HOPWA eligible participants in maintaining stable housing arrangements, reducing their risk of homelessness and improving their access to care. This is done through Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Short-Term Rental, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance (STRMU), and supportive services. Supportive services, usually tied to HOPWA housing assistance, include intensive case management.

The Community Development Department (CDD) has provided HOPWA funds to the following organizations to provide services to those living with HIV/AIDS:

- The Durham Department of Social Services (DSS) provides case management services to HOPWA eligible individuals and provides STRMU and case management to eligible individuals as well as permanent housing placement.
- The Housing Authority of the City of Durham administers the TBRA programs for the program. Case management services for these households are provided by DSS.

The proposed contract will allow for continuation of housing assistance and related supportive services to new households and households currently being served under the program. DSS will also continue to provide supportive services to households receiving TBRA through DHA. The current contract with DSS expires on June 30, 2021.

Issues and Analysis

Federal requirements of the HUD HOPWA program require there be continuity of services for individuals in the program to maintain housing stability and this new contract will allow services to continue for these beneficiaries for the next three years. CDD is also recommending the City enter into a new contract with the Housing Authority of the City of Durham to provide for clients with tenant based rental assistance to insure a there are comprehensive services available to those who qualify for assistance.

As noted above, this contract represents the continuation of a program already in process. In the interest of efficiency, CDD is requesting that City Council authorize the City Manager to approve the addition of any unexpended funds from DSS' prior HOPWA grant agreement with the City without further City Council action.

Alternatives

The City could elect to allow the current contract to end and not enter into this new contract. This option would result in a termination of case management support for HOPWA clients and an elimination of the permanent housing placement and the short term rental assistance program, which could lead to poorer health outcomes and increased housing instability for current HOPWA beneficiaries, up to and including homelessness.

Financial Impact

\$126,622.22 of FY2019-2020 and \$259,223 of FY2020-2021, \$320,630 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds are available and budgeted for this contract. \$320,630 of FY2021-2022 HOPWA funds have been allocated to the City of Durham but are not able to be encumbered until a final contract with HUD is executed. The FY2021-2022 funds will be encumbered once the contract with HUD is executed and MUNIS codes for those funds are established.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

This is an Interlocal Agreement that was not reviewed by the Department of Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting as it is made up of Federal Funds.

Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices

Due to the nature of this agenda item, obtaining Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices information is not applicable.

Attachments

DSS HOPWA Contract