

9-18-12
WALK-ON



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo

#12-2213

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee Feldman, City Manager *L. Feldman*

DATE: September 18, 2012

TITLE: WALK-ON - Motion to enter into a potential grantee relationship with Broward County's Homeless Initiative Partnership Division (HIP) for the purpose of serving as Lead Agency in the application for federal grant funds in the estimated amount of \$497,000 with matching funds of up to \$150,000 for services in Broward County's Homeless Continuum of Care.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve a motion authorizing the City Manager to compete to become Broward County's partner in a grant application in the amount of \$497,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). At this time there are no designated matching funds for this grant. In the event the City is selected to collaborate with Broward County in this application, further City Commission action will be required.

Background

On August 13, 2012, Broward County (via the Broward County Community Partnership Division and the Homeless Initiative Partnership) released a Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) - New Homeless Housing and Services Project(s) (Exhibit 1) for a possible partner in their application to HUD. The City responded on August 17, 2012 (Exhibit 2), and on August 28, 2012, the County notified the City that its response to the RLI was accepted.

In summary, the County in anticipation of a HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program competition released an RLI looking for an entity to collaborate with the County's Homeless Initiative partnerships (HIP) Section in an application to HUD for funding of a new permanent supportive housing project for the chronically homeless. The Permanent Supportive Housing Project provides funding for the development and/or operation of permanent supportive housing and services that help chronically homeless persons transition from homelessness to living as independently as possible.

On September 12, 2012, the City along with other potential partners on the grant application, the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Broward Partnership for the Homeless Inc. (BPHI), and the United Way of Broward County, attended the County's project workshop. The following is a summary of the project:

- The project timeframe will be one year.
- The maximum award amount available is estimated at \$497,000.
- The grant requires a 25% cash or in-kind match. While \$150,000 has been identified as a cash match, it is anticipated that other funds as well as in-kind services will greatly reduce the amount needed for the match.

The application deadline to Broward County is October 1, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. The City is working with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) in drafting its response. The City intends to incorporate a "Frequent User Service Enhancement initiative (FUSE)," which identifies the frequent users of expensive public services.

In addition to the partners noted above, the Fort Lauderdale Police and Fire Departments, the Homeless Outreach Team, the Broward Sheriff's Office and the County jail, as well as other mental and physical health providers will be assisting in gathering and cross-referencing data to identify the most frequent users of all systems.

The proposed project must be consistent with Congressional mandates and HUD guidelines for the use of HUD Homeless CoC funds.

Should the City of Fort Lauderdale be selected to collaborate with Broward County in this HUD Continuum of Care grant project, staff will present the project details and request the Commission's authorization to appropriate the awarded grant funds and execute any documents necessary to receive such funds.

Resource Impact

There is no budgetary impact for the current fiscal year. The matching funds may or may not be needed in FY 12-13. Resource details will be brought back to City Commission as the grant process moves forward.

Attachment(s):

Exhibit 1: Request for Letter of Interest (RLI)

Exhibit 2: City's response to RLI.

Broward County Board of County Commissioners
Human Services Department, Community Partnerships Division

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) - New Homeless Housing and Services Project(s)
and Substitute Project Sponsor
Homeless Initiative Partnerships HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs**

In anticipation of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) annual Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) Program competition, the Broward County Human Services Department, in partnership with the Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP) Advisory Board and the Community Partnerships Division (CPD), is requesting **Letters of Interest (RLIs)** for *two separate opportunities*: a new Permanent Supportive Housing Project and a Substitute Project Sponsor to provide subsidized transitional housing and supportive services.

Agencies eligible to apply for either of these funding opportunities are non-profit organizations, non-profit mental health centers, recognized tribes, public housing agency, and units of local government.

OPPORTUNITY ONE

The new Permanent Supportive Housing Project will fill identified gaps according to priorities established through a community process. The amount of funds available is projected to be **\$497,212 annually for a NEW project (defined as a project that creates new beds)**. The new project applicant must address both the local priority and program identified as follows:

LOCAL PRIORITY:

- Chronically homeless individuals and families, as defined by HUD. For the specific definition, please refer to the interim regulations published in the Federal Register on 7/31/12, which may be viewed at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/07/31/2012-17546/homeless-emergency-assistance-and-rapid-transition-to-housing-continuum-of-care-program>

PROGRAM:

The Permanent Supportive Housing Project [formerly known as the Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and the Shelter Plus Care (SPC) Program] provides funding for the development and/or operation of **permanent supportive housing** and services that help homeless persons transition from homelessness to living as independently as possible. **Permanent Housing is defined as** community-based housing without a designated length of stay, and "the program participant must be the tenant on a lease for a term of at least one year that is renewable and is terminable only for cause" (HUD definition). Transitional housing projects, defined by HUD as "housing, the purpose of which is to facilitate the movement of individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing within 24 months or such longer period as the Secretary determines necessary" are not eligible for this funding.

For a new project, the period is 12 months. Required match is twenty-five percent (25%) of the total amount requested (except for leasing, where no match is required). Program eligible activities include: Acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, rental assistance (only State, unit of general local government, or a public housing agency are eligible to administer rental assistance), operating costs, supportive services, and administration. **No more than 20% of eligible program activities may be used for supportive services.**

The proposed project must be consistent with Congressional mandates, HUD guidelines for the use of HUD Homeless CoC funds and local data. Funds cannot be used to close a funding gap or replace lost funding in an existing housing project or service program.

OPPORTUNITY TWO

The Substitute Project Sponsor will take over the coordination of an existing program to provide **subsidized supportive transitional housing** to the target population of low and very low income homeless families (as defined by HUD). The funding amount and Scope of Service for the existing transition-in-place program are not negotiable. The initial budget shall be for a period of nine months, beginning on October 1, 2012 and must specifically include:

- Real Property Leasing: \$196,907
- Supportive Services: \$59,008, with \$16,152 required for cash match
- Operations: \$18,590, with \$6,197 required for cash match
- Administrative Costs: \$6,862

Applicant Agencies must submit Letters of Interest (for either New Permanent Supportive Housing Project or Substitute Project Sponsor) starting Monday, August 13, 2012 at 8:30 A.M., but no later than Friday, August 17, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. to Linda Krepel, RFP Coordinator, CPD, Room A370, in the Governmental Center Annex, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33301, via mail, e-mail or fax: e-mail: lkrepel@broward.org; fax: (954) 357-8204.

Letters of Interest are limited to two pages (excluding any attachments). Each letter must be printed on the submitting agency's letterhead stationery and include all the following bulleted points to be considered for funding and invited to the applicant workshop. Any bullet(s) not applicable should be identified as such.

- Applicant agency legal name;
- Name of contact person (who will be coordinating project application);
- Contact's telephone number, fax number and e-mail address;
- Funding Opportunity of Interest;
- Local Priority addressed (Identify from list above)
- Identify the Program the Applicant Agency will apply under (SHP or SPC).
- Brief project description;
 - New Project proposals must include an explanation of project concept and site information if applicable;
 - Substitute Project Sponsor must include experience with the coordination of and rental subsidy programs and providing programs and services designed to maintaining independent housing.
- New HUD-funded projects are required to fully participate in Broward County's Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS). If the Applicant Agency currently uses HMIS, provide the following agency-wide data: number of agency's staff trained in HMIS, along with the percentage of beds covered in HMIS.

Letters of Interest not containing all the mandatory points mentioned above will be removed from further funding consideration. The Appeal window closes on Monday, August 27, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. Information on the Appeals process for this RLI may be found on the CPD website at located at: <http://webapps.broward.org/CommunityPartnershipsRFP/documents.aspx>

Successful Applicants will be notified by email and/or fax, and are required to attend a workshop to be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2012, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Governmental Center Annex, Room A337, located at 115 South Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Applicants are solely responsible for contact availability via email and fax during the period between the Appeal Window and the date of the Workshop. Failure to receive notification from HSD staff is not subject to appeal.

At the Workshop, Applicants will receive the RLI timeline, application materials, scoring criteria, local process instructions, and other information. Questions to County staff regarding the application process will only be permitted during the Workshop or in writing for a specified period. Written questions to County staff about the application must be submitted by the deadline and process as specified in the local instructions that will be provided. Additionally, the Fiscal Year 2012 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) has not yet been released, and may contain information that affects the funding opportunities described in this Notice. HIP reserves the right to change process instructions and time line dates, with notice posted on the Human Services Department Community Partnerships Division website identified above.

This Public Notice reflects the guidelines of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Continuum of Care Program Interim Rules as published in the Federal Register on July 31, 2012. Please be advised that as the public comment period for these interim rules ends on October 1, 2012, the information contained herein is subject to change. Applicants are further advised to reference the HUD website at: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail for the most current information and guidelines available.



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE

Venice of America

VIA: EMAIL

August 17, 2012

Ms. Linda Krepel, RFP Coordinator
Broward County Governmental Center Annex
115 S. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) New Homeless Housing and Services Project(s)

Dear Ms. Krepel:

This following is submitted in response to the above referenced RLI :

- **Applicant agency legal name:** The City of Fort Lauderdale (hereinafter "City")
- **Name of contact person:** Cate McCaffrey, Assistant Director Parks and Recreation
- **Contact information:** Phone 954-828-5129; Fax 954-828-5650; cmccaffrey@fortlauderdale.gov
- **Funding Opportunity of Interest:** Opportunity One, the New Permanent Supportive Housing Project
- **Local Priority addressed:** Chronically homeless individuals and families, as defined by HUD.
- **Program the Applicant Agency will apply under:** Supportive Housing Program (SHP).
- **Brief project description:**

Introduction:

The project concept is to create a strong collaboration across City and County agencies and the not-for-profit sector to identify chronically homeless persons who are frequent users of costly public systems, including criminal justice agencies, emergency rooms, hospitals, physical and mental health services, and to place them into permanent supportive housing.

Background and Local Perspective:

The 2011 homeless Point-in-Time count found 1,262 unsheltered homeless in Broward County, an estimated 800 of whom were chronically homeless. A large portion of this population is located on the streets and in the parks of downtown Fort Lauderdale. Each year, the vast number of individuals released from the Broward County Jail, find themselves in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Among this group is a small but significant subset of individuals, often referred to as "frequent users," who are typically homeless, transient and have complex health and behavioral issues. For years they cycle in and out of jails, homeless shelters, psychiatric hospitals, detox and drug treatment programs and emergency rooms. Upon release, they often end up back on the street, all at great public expense and with tragic human outcomes. Without access to safe and affordable housing, these individuals have little chance at success. The City proposes to use funds provided through the opportunity announced in Broward County Human Services Department's RLI for New Homeless Housing and Services Project(s) to create supportive housing that targets this population so visibly suffering in the City.



Proposed Program and Partnerships:

The City intends to work with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), which supports communities nationwide in developing programs designed to bring together stakeholders from the public and non-profit sectors to find innovative ways to provide affordable, permanent supportive housing for frequent users of crisis public health systems. The City is proposing a model similar to one created by CSH, called the Frequent User Service Enhancement (FUSE) Initiative, which identifies the chronically homeless frequent users and provides permanent supportive housing with intensive case management.

The City has formed partnerships with the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc. (BPHI) and the United Way of Broward County. Resources to develop a cross system data match to identify the most costly frequent users of public systems will include the City's Police and Fire Departments, the TaskForce Fore Ending Homelessness, the Broward Health Medical Center emergency room department, the Broward County Jail, Henderson Behavioral Health and other health service providers. Activities of the partnerships include:

- Creation of permanent supportive housing with intensive case management for chronically homeless persons identified through a data match as frequent users of emergency public services. Funding for housing and supportive services will come from the service and rental assistance monies from the grant with at least 25% matched dollars from various sources. The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale has agreed to administer the housing vouchers.
- Supportive Services provided will include intensive clinical case management services, medication evaluation, medication monitoring, substance abuse treatment, linkage and coordination with primary care, group therapy, trauma informed treatment, supportive housing, and benefits acquisition/management. The goal is to reduce recidivism, decrease jail days, reduce use of crisis/emergency health services, increase housing tenure and improve recovery outcomes.
- Monitoring and tracking of outcomes through an evaluation of the program.

The City intends to fully participate in Broward County's Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS), and the City's supportive services partner BPHI is well trained in HMIS and covers 100% of their respective project beds.

Very truly yours,



Cate McCaffrey
City of Fort Lauderdale

- c: Lee R. Feldman, City Manager, City of Fort Lauderdale
Tam A. English, Executive Director/CEO, Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale
Frances M. Esposito, CEO, Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc.
Kathleen Cannon, President/CEO, United Way of Broward County