CITY OF MADISON: Planning and Community and Economic Development Dept: CDBG Office

Memo

To: CDBG Committee

From: Sue Wallinger, CDBG Office

Date: November 25, 2009

Re: Potential Project Ideas for $25,000 in 2010 GPR Funds to Address Homelessness

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The Services Consortium Legislation Committee met on 11/24 to discuss potential projects for use of the new GPR funds with a focus on unmet needs of the homeless in the greater downtown area. The Chair, Mike Basford, will be leading a discussion at the 12/1 meeting of the Homeless Services Consortium intended to get their ideas and will be available at the 12/3 CDBG Committee meeting to relay feedback from the Consortium on this topic.

In discussions so far, there are a couple of ideas brought forward as to how best to address homelessness :

- Part-time case manager to serve single men at the Drop-In Shelter. Currently the DIS employs one staff person who, because of funder restrictions, works only with individuals with mental illness; while DIS guests are served by day-time staff at the Hospitality House. There are few opportunities for individuals at the shelter(sometimes numbering up to 150 men) to address those barriers that keep them from finding and maintaining housing.

- Financial assistance for miscellaneous needs of homeless individuals. Currently there are few funding sources to cover such miscellaneous expenses as dental work, medical needs, prescriptions, etc. A fund could be set up to be accessed by individuals working with a case manager to pay for expenses that create barriers for gaining income and finding and maintaining housing.

Additional ideas may be presented and discussed at the CDBG Committee meeting. Staff would recommend that the Committee give guidance as to what unmet need or type of service is desired to address homelessness. Staff will then proceed with an RFP process to select a non-profit agency to deliver the needed service. It would be staff's intention to contract with a service provider by the end of January.