

April 21, 2015

To: Members, Madison Common Council
From: Jim O'Keefe, Community Development Division Director
Re: Agenda Item #26 – ETH Program Application

Agenda item #26 on tonight's meeting agenda seeks authorization for the City to submit a grant application to the State of Wisconsin for funds available under the State's ETH Program. At last week's Board of Estimates meeting, and since, questions have arisen about this application. This memo seeks to provide some background and help address them.

Background

The ETH Program supports a variety of activities related to homeless services and homelessness prevention. The Program encompasses what were once three separate programs – the Emergency Solution Grant, Transitional Housing and Homeless Prevention Programs. At one time, these funds were released through separate application processes but State administrators brought them together under the ETH Program umbrella.

ETH funds are made available for use by individual service organizations, however, the State accepts applications only from a single applicant on behalf of a "Continuum of Care" (COC) – i.e., a collection of organizations that serve a specified geographic area. The State establishes the configuration of COCs and it also specifies the amount of ETH funds to be made available to each of them. In that sense, the application process serves to identify not how much money a COC will receive, but how it is proposed to be used.

The City of Madison has served as the lead applicant and fiscal agent for the Madison/Dane County COC. Upon receipt of ETH funds, the City passes grant amounts through to designated COC partner agencies in accordance with the terms of the application. Sue Wallinger, a long-time CDD staff member, plays a lead role in organizing and facilitating the process by which annual ETH applications are assembled. She also helps to ensure the application adheres to state and federal regulatory standards.

2015-16 ETH Process

This year's process followed that used in the past. Notification from the State of fund availability occurred later than usual (the State RFP was issued in March rather than December) which compressed the time available to prepare an application.

Sue alerted the Homeless Services Consortium (HSC) members on February 26th that ETH funds were about to be offered. (The HSC list serve is comprised of some 350-400 individuals involved in the delivery of or interested in homeless services.) She scheduled a planning meeting for March 24th to gather ideas regarding local needs and service gaps and to begin work on assembling the group's 2015-16 application. Reminder notices went out on March 17th and 23rd.

HSC list serve members were also notified that the amount of ETH funds available to the Madison/Dane County COC for 2015-16 would be slightly higher than the previous year's amount - \$471,500 vs. \$437,300.

About 15 people, representing a dozen service organizations attended the March 24th meeting. They generated a preliminary list of proposed projects totaling \$530,000 - \$60,000 more than available funding. Most of these offered support for the continuation of existing programs; a few proposed funds for new projects. And, there was some discussion around the eligibility of a couple of proposals.

A second meeting, attended by a dozen people, occurred on March 30th at which there was further discussion of the application. The group, as they have in the past, worked by consensus. There were no votes taken, or requested, but participants concluded with a good sense of what would be included in COC's application. At least one question regarding the eligibility of a project lingered and was addressed in subsequent e-mail exchanges.

The COC application becomes final upon the approval of the Homeless Services Consortium Board of Directors. The Board is a 12-member body comprised of representatives of service agencies, at-large members (at least 2 of which must be homeless or formerly homeless), and a (non-voting) member of the lead agency of the housing management information system. Sue Wallinger provides staff support to the Board but the City is not otherwise represented. Martha Cranley, from United Way, is the current Board chair. On Friday, April, 17th, the Board took up the recommended ETH application and approved it by unanimous consent. The list of organizations and the amounts to be requested for each accompanies this memo. Under the proposal, the City of Madison will receive about \$6,300 for administrative costs.

Summary

So, to sum up:

- Agenda item 26 is not about the allocation of City funds
- The ETH application is not a City application, it is a Madison/Dane County COC application. The City is advancing the application on behalf of the COC
- The content of the application is not dictated by the City or City staff; it is assembled by partner service organizations and ultimately approved by the Board of Directors of the Homeless Services Consortium.

2015-16 ETH Application

Funds	Component	Agency	Program	#/Target Population	Approved
THP	Transitional	Briarpatch	Transitional Living Program	12 young adults 18-21 yrs. Old	23,100
ESG	Outreach	Briarpatch	Youth Outreach	100 youth & young adults	22,000
HPP/ESG	Prevention	CACSCW	Rentable	161 homeless and at-risk households	119,109
HPP/ESG	Prevention/RRH	CACSCW	Rentable		
ESG	Admin	CACSCW	Rentable		10,000
ESG	Shelter	DCPC	Hope House	3 young mothers w/child	16,800
ESG	HMIS	ICA	WISP Lead Administrator		3,900
ESG	Prevention	LAW	Legal Advocacy	32 households w/ evictions	20,000
ESG	Outreach	Porchlight	Single Men Outreach	60 single men	25,000
ESG	Transitional	Porchlight	STABLE Program	12 single women w/ mental health issues	16,400
THP	Transitional	Porchlight	STABLE Program		6,900
ESG	Shelter	The Road Home	Shelter CM	22 families	16,800
ESG	Prevention	SUM	Pathways to Self Sufficiency	5 families at risk of homelessness	12,400
ESG	Shelter	The Salvation Army	Medical Vouchers	25 households	8,100
ESG	Shelter	The Salvation Army	Single Women CM	100 single women	18,800
ESG	Shelter	The Salvation Army	Waitlist CM	50 families	16,800
ESG	Shelter	EATA, Inc.	BOOST	30 households	20,000
ESG	Prevention	Tenant Resource Center	Housing Mediation	140 tenant households	10,100
ESG	RRH	YWCA	RRH-Families	10-12 families	50,000
ESG	Shelter	YWCA	Family Shelter CM	60 families	16,800
	Admin	City		800+ households (served by Hsg Hotline)	6,344
ESG	HMIS	CACSCW	Coor. Entry HMIS		2,100
ESG	Shelter	CareNet	Elizabeth Hse	10 households	10,000
ESG	Outreach	Tenant Resource Center	Outreach to CH Single Adults	10 individuals/chronically homeless	20,000
Totals					471,453
Available					471,453