

February 28, 2017 Draft
Housing Focused Street Outreach

Objective

These funds are intended to support outreach efforts targeting persons who are homeless and unsheltered with the purpose of connecting clients to services and/or systems that will facilitate their entry into stable housing.

Services

Funds offered through this RFP will support efforts to identify, contact and engage persons who are homeless, unsheltered and not accessing resources or services that are available within the community. The principle objective of this work is to ensure that clients are securely connected to agencies within the existing service network and, thus, positioned to take advantage of housing opportunities when they arise.

Outreach team members will be expected to be knowledgeable about the resources and services to summon in situations involving severe physical or personal distress, however, most of their focus will be devoted to efforts designed to improve their clients' likelihood of securing stable housing. These will include, for example, conducting common needs assessments using the VI-SPDAT or SPDAT assessment tools; ensuring that client-specific information is accurately entered into the Housing Management Information System; ensuring that clients are entered on the community's prioritized housing list; connecting clients to providers of emergency shelter, mental health, AODA, employment and/or case management services, as appropriate; helping clients secure documentation needed to establish a designation of chronic homelessness and, thereby, gain eligibility for permanent supportive housing; and developing an effective means to determine the whereabouts of clients or to reach them for purposes of securing housing.

This funding is not intended to support the provision of case management services to clients. Contracted agencies are expected, when possible, to leverage resources and reimbursement systems including, for example, Dane County's Comprehensive Community Services Program, to pay for ongoing services. However, where other resources are not available, funding can be used to support the provision of case management services for up to two months if necessary to ensure the long-term housing stability of a client placed into a permanent supportive housing unit.

Target Populations

Outreach efforts are expected to prioritize clients who are homeless, unsheltered, not currently accessing mental health, AODA or case management services, or connected to a service agency providing such services, and:

- Are families that include young children;
- Are individuals or head of households that are 18-24 in age¹
- Are persons who are known or believed to have had frequent contact with providers of emergency medical, detox, or law enforcement services;

¹ As prioritized in Dane County Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness and focused goal in 2017 for HUD

- Are persons who are known or believed likely to rank among the top 25% of those identified on the community's prioritized housing list; or
- Are persons not currently listed on the prioritized housing list but likely to be eligible for housing placement due to medical concerns.

Location

Street outreach services will focus on locations, including but not limited to, Madison's downtown business district, where there are higher concentrations of people living in public spaces, as well as other locations that might be identified for attention by City staff or by Point in Time count volunteers.

Required Proposal Narrative

Please provide a detailed description of the proposed project team. Be sure to address the following issues in your response.

Respondents must propose the use of a street outreach team that includes, through collaboration with an established agency, or direct hire at least one licensed social worker with two to three years of experience working with persons with behavioral health issues. ...

Preference will be given to proposals that include:

1. At least one team member with lived experience dealing with homelessness and substance abuse or mental health issues;
2. At least one team member who is licensed in the State of Wisconsin to determine disability status;
3. Collaboration with a provider of primary health care services

Please provide a detailed project plan. Be sure to address the following in your response:

1. How the respondent proposes to collaborate with local non-profit service agencies to engage homeless persons – specifically how they would work with Coordinated Entry and the Day Resource Center.
2. Specific strategies that will be used to engage homeless persons who are resistant to working with mainstream housing and homeless service providers.
3. Respondents should include hours of operations, proposed space for meeting with clients and how additional resources will be used to leverage City funding.
4. Proposal describes approach to developing a treatment/service plan designed to achieve long-term housing stability and enroll clients into Comprehensive Community Services (CCS).

Please provide a timeline of key activities.

Please describe the qualifications of the application organization. Be sure to address the following issues in your response:

1. Working knowledge of and experience implementing a Housing First approach, Harm Reduction case management and Motivational Interviewing.
2. Ability to collaborate with housing and service providers in order to help chronically homeless persons achieve long-term housing stability.
3. Proficiency in using HMIS and related HUD data systems and ability to enter data while in the field.
4. Demonstrated history of effective organizational and fiscal management, including timely and accurate reporting.
5. Commitment to principles of human rights, self determination and a service philosophy dedicated to treating all persons with dignity and respect.

Performance outcome goals (*still needs to be defined*)

Agencies should have 60% of individuals move into stable housing

100% of clients in enrolled in program are given VI-SPDAT/SPDAT

100% of clients entered into HMIS

100% of clients are referred to Housing Priority List

XX clients receive disability documentation

XX clients

Xx% clients who exited to Permanent Housing that returned to shelter (long term goal)

Acceptable expenses

- Wages/Salaries
- Training
- Supplies/Equipment
- Transportation