



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

Community Development Division

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**Child Care
Community Resources
Community Development Block Grant
Madison Senior Center**

TO: Jim O'Keefe, CDD Director
Susan Morrison, CD Grants Supervisor

FROM: Sue Wallinger, Grants Administrator

DATE: 7/30/2015

RE: Using HUD Planning funds to contract with Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), Inc. to include updating the Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in Madison/Dane County

In January of this year, the City was notified by HUD of an award in the amount of \$38,739 to be used for planning activities on behalf of the Madison/Dane Continuum of Care (CoC). The maximum amount allowable was determined by HUD formula. The City, as the Collaborative Applicant for the CoC, applied for the maximum amount as part of the 2014 application for HUD CoC Homeless Assistance funds.

This is the second award of planning funds. The City also received HUD planning funds in the 2012 CoC application. These funds were used to contract with the Corporation for Supportive Housing to provide services including:

- a data-driven gaps analysis of housing and services for homeless,
- a facilitated planning session to define specific program interventions in order to develop a concise body of written standards to guide funding decisions,
- an interactive workshop involving local non-profits on providing a Housing First approach to engage, assess and serve people experiencing homelessness, and
- an analysis of current HUD-funded transitional housing units to guide decisions on transforming these units to permanent supportive housing, to rapid re-housing units or retaining them as transitional housing.

Many members of the Homeless Services Consortium have expressed their satisfaction with the work done by CSH staff. CDD staff was also very satisfied with the completed work. As a result, City staff has had discussions with CSH staff regarding their experience with facilitating the revision of a community's plan to end homelessness. A number of references and final products were provided. These were reviewed by a number of agency staff who thought that hiring CSH to provide the work necessary to update the Community Plan would be an excellent use of the HUD planning funds. The Homeless Services Consortium Board of Directors approved the use of the planning funds for updating the community plan at its July 24th meeting and contracting with CSH.

CSH proposes to assist a local steering committee, appointed by the HSC Board of Directors, to prepare and facilitate a Charrette. The Charrette would be a 1 – 1.5 day event that brings together a wide cross section of stakeholders who are interested in eliminated homelessness. It would include a number of outside experts as panelists; this is the format they have used in other communities. The final write-up of the Charrette becomes a local plan to end homelessness. United Way of Dane County is participating by contributing \$5,000 toward the effort.

As background, the Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness started with a full day facilitated community conversation. Homeless Services Consortium agency staff spent six months to create a 76 page written plan which was reviewed and supported by the City, County and United Way. Annually the Plan's proposed outcomes were updated and reported to the full HSC. The plan was revised once in 2011. In 2012, federal regulation governing HUD-funded homeless programs mandated a number of new activities including implementing a coordinated entry system, creating CoC-wide written standards, creating bylaws and electing a Board of Directors, and evaluating all CoC- and ESG-funded programs. There is a need to engage outside organizations to help us keep the Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness updated.