

EXHIBIT NO. 1

18
6-26-01

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 20, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS GRANT FUNDING ALLOCATED TO THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA AND APPROVAL OF THE HOPWA CERTIFICATION

ISSUE: Consideration of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant funding application and subsequent allocation to the City of Alexandria and approval of the HOPWA Certification that certifies the activities under the program will meet urgent needs that are not being met by available public and private sources.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve Alexandria's participation in the metropolitan-wide application for HOPWA FFY 2001 funding, estimated in the amount of \$19,480, that will be used when previous grant funds are exhausted (estimated to be FY 2002); and
- (2) Approve the use of this allocation for the maximum number of vouchers that can be supported with the funding received, with the understanding that the estimated number of vouchers for this allocation is 18, an increase from the previous estimate of 16.

There are no monies available in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program, offers the Metropolitan Washington area grant funding to provide housing assistance to persons living with HIV/AIDS. The Washington, D.C. Department of Human Services, Commission of Public Health, Agency for HIV/AIDS is the lead applicant and grantee for the HOPWA funds and distributes funding to Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland based on the proportionate number of reported AIDS cases in each jurisdiction. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) participates in the grant application process and administers HOPWA for Northern Virginia. In Alexandria, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) receives funds on behalf of the City

for rental assistance to qualifying individuals and families. ARHA uses the HOPWA funds to provide rental housing vouchers similar to the Section 8 program.

The Alexandria Health Department, the Alexandria Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse and other AIDS services organizations refer City residents to the Whitman Walker Clinic of Northern Virginia Housing Coordinator, who maintains the waiting list for rental assistance administered by ARHA. To qualify for HOPWA assistance, the person must be a City resident diagnosed with HIV infection and have a low income (not exceeding 50 percent of the area median income; currently no more than \$29,400 for a one-person household).

On October 14, 1997, Council approved Alexandria's participation in the application for HOPWA FFY 1997 funding, approved a certification of consistency with the City's Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development, and also authorized the use of available HOPWA monies for 15 housing vouchers or up to the maximum number that can be supported with the funding received, whichever is greater, per year. The flexibility in the number of vouchers is necessary because, given that the HOPWA monies cover the difference between the rental amount and 30 percent of the household's income, the maximum number of vouchers that can be funded at any given time depends on the actual subsidy needs of each household, as determined based on the household's income and the rental amount. In addition to the potential variation in the number of vouchers at any one time, it should be noted that the number of households served may exceed the maximum number of vouchers because of turnover during the year.

A summary of the HOPWA program in Alexandria from FY 1996 (actual) through FY 2001 (estimated), including the amount of funding received, the maximum number of vouchers authorized and the actual HOPWA caseload serviced, is shown in Attachment I.

DISCUSSION: For previous HOPWA grants, the City has not been asked to execute any certifications until the end of the application process. However, the District of Columbia has requested that all area jurisdictions execute the attached HOPWA certification at this time for the current Federal Fiscal Year 2001 application. Therefore, staff recommends that City Council approve Alexandria's participation in the application for HOPWA Year 10 funding and authorize the execution of the required certification. The Alexandria portion of funding is anticipated at \$19,480, and is expected to provide approximately 18 vouchers in FY 2001, an increase from the current estimate of 16 vouchers that can be supported with current allocations.

The grant application process also requires that jurisdictions certify that activities funded by HOPWA will meet urgent needs that are not being met by available public and private sources. Staff considers this to be an accurate assessment. According to the Alexandria Task Force on AIDS and City Staff 1996 Work Group Report, *The Status of HIV/AIDS in Alexandria*, long-term housing continues to be a high priority of persons living with HIV/AIDS. HOPWA housing vouchers are the only City long term housing resource available specifically for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The current waiting list for HOPWA housing vouchers is composed of 35 persons.

The current One Year Action Plan (July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002) for the City's Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development states that the City "would generally support applications by other entities for funding to provide supportive housing and services for persons with HIV/AIDS on a case-by-case basis subject to Council approval." Funding previously approved by Council under the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program is specifically mentioned in the One Year Action Plan. The current recommendation would continue that assistance with a possible increase to 18 households with FFY 2001 funding. This increase requires Council approval in order to be consistent with the Consolidated Plan. A Certification of Consistency will be executed when the recommendations in this docket item are approved.

FAIR SHARE IMPACT: The HOPWA rental housing vouchers for Alexandria residents living with HIV/AIDS are anticipated to increase to 18 vouchers. Because HOPWA is a metropolitan-wide program, allocation of funding is based on a formula that utilizes the cumulative number of reported cases of HIV and AIDS in each jurisdiction. Alexandria has received, on the average, 21 percent of the Northern Virginia tenant-based rental funding annually based on the number of AIDS cases reported in the City.

Like Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties use HOPWA awards for tenant-based rental assistance. Washington, D.C. provides transitional and permanent housing and rental, supportive and emergency assistance. Both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties are using HOPWA funds to expand rental and emergency assistance.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. This is a non-pass-through grant for the City and will be administered by the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority. There is no requirement for the City to provide a cash match or in-kind match for these funds. It should be noted that there are no monies available in the City Budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended.

STAFF:

Elizabeth Deal, Administrative Technician, Alexandria Health Department
Deborah Dimon, B.S.N., M.P.H., PHN Supervisor, Alexandria Health Department
Charles Konigsberg, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., Director, Alexandria Health Department
Mildrilyn Davis, Director, Office of Housing

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment I: Summary of City of Alexandria HOPWA Funding, FY 1998 Actual through FY 2002 Application

ATTACHMENT I
HOPWA Long Term Housing Assistance

City of Alexandria Fiscal Year	FY1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2002	FY2003
HOPWA YEARS	5	6	7	8	9	10
Federal Fiscal Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Amount*	\$102,745	\$93,732	\$100,800	\$115,910	\$115,970	\$119,480
Actual Dates Spent	9/98-10/99	10/99-6/00	7/00-2/01	3/01-10/01	10/01-6/02	
Actual Number of Vouchers/Units	14	14	18	18	18	18

*Excludes any short-term or utility assistance that may have been provided to Alexandria residents

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