

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 2, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR HOMELESS SERVICES RELATED PROGRAMS

ISSUE: City Council consideration of grant applications to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) in an amount up to \$150,000 annually for continued funding for the Alexandria Community Shelter, the Alexandria Winter Shelter, the Domestic Violence Shelter, and other related Homeless Services.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- 1) Approve the submission of the grant applications to the VDHCD in an amount up to \$150,000 annually; and
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The City of Alexandria, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), oversees operations for three Emergency Shelters (Alexandria Community Shelter, Alexandria Winter Shelter and the Domestic Violence Shelter). The Alexandria Community Shelter and the Alexandria Winter Shelter are administered under contract by New Hope Housing, Inc. and Carpenter's Shelter, respectively. The shelters currently receive allocations from the State Shelter Grant program. Starting in Fiscal Year 2013, the State Shelter Grant program will be replaced by the Homeless Solutions Grant program and applications will be made for funding for the three shelters. The Proposed FY 2013 Budget estimated \$106,676 in annual Shelter Grant revenues. The application covers a two-year period and awards a grant of up to \$150,000 each year.

DISCUSSION: With the transition from the State Shelter Grant to the Homeless Solutions Grant, VDHCD has created a priority of housing-focused services to complement the support of shelter operations. Activities include housing stabilization and rapid re-housing. The Homeless Solutions Grant is designed to assist households experiencing homelessness to quickly regain stability in permanent housing. The goals are reduction of the length of time households experience homelessness and the reduction in the number of families returning to homelessness.

The targeted program participants are individuals and families experiencing homelessness, at imminent risk of homelessness, or fleeing domestic violence.

VDHCD funds will be used for the continued support of operations at the three shelters, and to support a new grant-funded position to accomplish the requirements of housing stabilization and rapid re-housing. The duties will include the creation of a standardized housing assessment process for those experiencing homelessness, case-management associated with the direct rapid re-housing assistance. The position will be located within the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and aligns with other homeless services. The position will be funded only through the homeless services grants from VDHCD; if the grant-funding were to end, the position would no longer be needed.

FISCAL IMPACT: The anticipated annual grant award is up to \$150,000 and covers a two-year period. The Proposed FY 2013 Budget includes \$106,676 in anticipated Shelter Grant revenues. The required City match is in-kind.

It should be noted that there are no additional monies in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds have been expended. This grant is for two years; however, it is anticipated that the State funding will continue to support these activities in subsequent years. The position will be funded only through the homeless services grants from VDHCD; if the grant-funding were to end, the position would no longer be needed. Any person hired from the grant funds will be notified of this condition of employment.

ATTACHMENTS: None.

STAFF:

Michael Gilmore, Ph.D., Director, Department of Community and Human Services

Suzanne Chis, Deputy Director, DCHS

Dennis McKinney, Deputy Director, Center for Economic Support, DCHS

Jim Fleming, Fiscal Officer III, DCHS

Ann Moore, Assistant Director, Office of Community Services, DCHS

Claire Dunn, Division Chief, Sexual Assault Center and Domestic Violence Program, DCHS