


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 20, 2009
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 
SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR GRANT APPLICATION RENEWAL TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO CONTINUE THE PROJECTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRANSITION FROM HOMELESSNESS (PATH) SERVICES

ISSUE: Consideration of the Alexandria Community Services Board (ACSB) renewal application for grant funds from the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) to provide services and supports to individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit the FY 2010 grant application to DMHMRSAS in the amount of \$95,000;
- (2) Affirm that, due to City budget constraints, no additional City funds beyond those included in the Approved FY 2010 Budget be used to fund this program in FY 2010 and future years; and
- (3) Execute all documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) is a formula grant program provided by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, funded under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-645, Title V, Subtitle B, Part C). The purpose of the PATH program is to provide services to individuals who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless and who suffer from serious mental illness or SMI and co-occurring substance use disorders.

The Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS), Office of Mental Health Services, has managed Virginia's federally-funded PATH program and the ACSB has received PATH funds since 1991. ACSB PATH staff

provides outreach, engagement, case-finding, consultation and support services to over 300 homeless individuals annually. PATH staff have formed long standing collaborative relationships with the local emergency shelters, Alexandria Police Department, Department of Human Services and many non-profit homeless service providers. Services are designed to outreach, identify and engage such persons into services with the end goal of transitioning from homelessness into needed behavioral health, social services and housing in order to promote recovery and self-determination.

DHMRSAS will award contracts for on-going funding. The current Request for Applications is competitive and due June 9, 2009. ACSB staff received the Request for Applications on May 8, 2009. The Alexandria Community Services Board has been notified of the application and is scheduled to review and approve the grant application at its June 11, 2009, meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: PATH funds are awarded following the federal fiscal year calendar and confirmations of continued funding typically occur after the City has approved its budget. To account for the delay in the funding notification, PATH funds historically have been budgeted at 25% of the anticipated amount in the City's Approved Budget and then increased in appropriation ordinances upon notification of continued funding. The FY 2010 Approved Budget includes \$35,575 in PATH funding for the period of July 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009. If the PATH application is approved, additional revenues will be recognized during an appropriation ordinance. During Fiscal Year 2009, ACSB will receive \$92,910 in PATH funding.

The grant proposal is for \$95,000 annually to partially fund two existing FTEs and related non-personnel expenditures. The grant requires \$1 in City match for every \$3 of Federal funding and the FY 2010 Approved Budget already includes the allocation for the cash match. As this grant application is for the renewal of an existing program, approval and subsequent acceptance of the PATH award will not affect the City's General Fund. In the event the PATH grant is not renewed, the ACSB would review existing services and reallocate funds from other programs or eliminate the PATH services.

STAFF:

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