


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 29, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

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

ISSUE: Consideration of the grant applications to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for funding for the Alexandria Community Shelter, the Winter Shelter, the Domestic Violence Shelter, and Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- 1) Submit the Emergency Solutions Grant applications to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (due April 15, 2011); and
- 2) Execute all documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The City of Alexandria, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), oversees operations for three Emergency Shelters eligible for funding from the Emergency Solutions Grant (formerly named Emergency Shelter Grant): Alexandria Community Shelter, Winter Shelter (hypothermia program), and Domestic Violence Shelter. Funding for FY 2011 totaled \$111,680 to support local operations with no local match. During FY 2011, New Hope Housing, Inc. was awarded the contract for management of the Alexandria Community Shelter, and Carpenter's Shelter was awarded the contract for the Winter Shelter. These shelters continue to be key in the provision of immediate homeless services.

DISCUSSION: In order to support the goal of maintaining appropriate housing for those experiencing homelessness, or at-risk of homelessness, DHCD has expanded the scope of programs to include homeless prevention and rapid re-housing funding.

The City's annual homeless count (Point-in-Time) for FY 2011 indicates there continues to be a need to preserve the current number of emergency shelter beds. On January 26, 2011, the night of the Point-in-Time count, 416 persons were experiencing homelessness: 58 adults, 94 children, and 264 single persons; of these individuals, 152 were members of homeless families. The emergency shelters provide temporary short-term shelter for the homeless in general, or for specific populations of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Emergency shelter programs also provide housing barrier assessments and referrals to appropriate permanent housing resources.

The Emergency Solutions Grant funding will also assist in continuing some of the components of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program that is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), scheduled to end September 30, 2011. The ultimate goal of Federal, State and local strategic plans is to reduce the length of stay for those in emergency and transitional shelter programs, and prevent the need for shelter.

GRANT PERIOD: The two-year grant period is July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

FISCAL IMPACT: Award of up to \$300,000 for the two-year program. No local match is required.

STAFF:

Debra R. Collins, Assistant City Manager

Michael Gilmore, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)

Suzanne Chis, Deputy Director, DCHS