
Sponsor: Housing Stability

Meeting Date: 6/27/2023

Title: Amendment to the Agreement with Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program

File Number: 2023-250

Background and Rationale:

The Minnesota Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) was established in 1993 to assist families who were homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. The program goals aim to prevent homelessness, minimize periods of homelessness, and eliminate repeat episodes of homelessness.

The county works with its community partners through an FHPAP Advisory Committee to design a homeless crisis response system, develop project outcome measures, and assess the short and long-term effectiveness of the program in meeting the needs of families experiencing homeless. Past priorities for the FHPAP include implementing the Coordinated Entry system for families and street outreach for youth. This year, the county's Continuum of Care (CoC) Governing Board prioritized serving singles, families, and youth for the 2021-2023 grant cycle to provide street outreach, prevention assistance, coordinated entry, and rapid rehousing services through FHPAP funding.

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) has a grant contract agreement with the Grantee identified as Family Homelessness Prevention & Assistance Program, with an effective date of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2023, to prevent homelessness, reduce the length of time households are homeless and eliminate future episodes of homelessness.

MHFA is amending the original grant contract to modify the grantee's project plan, increase the grant award by \$1,504,263, to total \$4,728,263, and modify the payment terms to meet the needs of the grantee during the grant period. This award is part of one-time funding for FHPAP known as "Fast Track" signed into law by Governor Walz on March 31, 2023 ([2023 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 20, Section 1](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2023/0/Session+Law/Chapter/20/) <<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2023/0/Session+Law/Chapter/20/>>). The funding is allocated to existing program administrators without a new competitive process.

The primary purpose of the Fast Track funds is to help prevent families from being evicted and to help them achieve housing stability. The following subgrantees will receive funds to support residents through their existing FHPAP prevention projects:

- Catholic Charities
- Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)
- YMCA
- Neighborhood House
- Minnesota Community Care

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve an amendment to the agreement with Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program for the period of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2023 in the amount of \$1,504,263, in accordance with the rates established in the agreement.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.
3. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McGuire, seconded by Commissioner Frethem. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Frethem, MatasCastillo, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board