
Sponsor: Housing Stability

Meeting Date: 11/26/2024

Title: Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care Planning Grant

File Number: 2024-632

Background and Rationale:

South Metro Human Services (doing business as Radies Health) was awarded the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Planning Grant in 2016. Serving only as the recipient of the grant, Radies Health sub-awarded this grant to Catholic Charities, who dedicated the funding toward a full-time Housing Assessor position for single adults and youth being served by the organization. During the COVID-19 pandemic, funding from the CoC Planning Grant was split between Catholic Charities and Minnesota Community Care (MCC). Catholic Charities continued to use its funding to employ a Housing Assessor, while MCC put its share of the grant toward hiring a Community Engagement/Mobile Assessor.

In 2023, both sub-recipient organizations decided they no longer wished to administer the HUD CoC Planning Grant. To preserve funding, the Ramsey County Housing Stability Department (HSD) met with administrators from HUD to discuss options and was permitted to take over the HUD CoC Planning Grant originally awarded to South Metro Human Services.

The grant will be used to hire new staff positions equivalent to 2 FTEs to support the Ramsey County Coordinated Entry for Youth and Singles (CEYS) program. CEYS is the direct assistance priority list management team serving youth and single adults. CEYS assists clients with accessing assessment points, communicating list placement, matching clients to housing referrals, assisting with Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) needs, troubleshooting match needs, and sending and receiving housing referrals to and from providers. Additionally, the work to support this team will include:

- Assisting clients with accessing CEYS assessment entry points and determining eligibility, including being certified to administer and complete new assessments and assessment updates.
- Communicating and clarifying housing needs.
- Assisting with client documentation.
- Navigating client to potential mainstream housing options.
- Coordinating potential matches with housing referrals and provider partners with CEYS Priority List Managers.
- Supporting Housing Support principles and advocacy for clients with community partners and providers.
- Assisting with HMIS needs and updates.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Accept a grant award and approve a grant agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care lead agency planning, for the period upon execution, to August 31, 2025, in the amount of \$162,042.
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.
4. Approve an increase in the personnel complement by 2.0 Full Time Equivalent positions within the Housing Stability Department for the duration of the grant.

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

Aye: - 5: Frethem, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: - 1: Moran

By: 

Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board