



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development

Date: February 25, 2014

To: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Chair, Community Development & Regulatory Services Committee

Referral To: Council Member John Quincy, Chair, Ways and Means/Budget Committee

Subject: Minneapolis Homeless Street Outreach Funding Recommendations

Recommendation:

1. Approve up to \$300,000 of funding for St. Stephens Human Services, Inc.'s homeless outreach programming. Said funding consists of \$150,000 of Fiscal Year 2014 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and \$150,000 of City General Fund.
2. Authorize the appropriate staff to execute the necessary contracts with the organization receiving homeless outreach funding awards.

Previous Directives:

St. Stephens: On February 15, 2013, the Minneapolis City Council approved up to \$300,000 in Outreach funding for St Stephen's Human Services, Inc.

The Emergency Solutions Grant program is included in the City's annual Consolidated Plan submitted to HUD. The 2014 Consolidated Plan covering these ESG funds will be submitted by April 15, 2014.

Department Information

Prepared by:	Tiffany Glasper, Senior Project Coordinator, 612-673-5221	
Approved by:	Thomas A. Streit, Director, Housing Policy & Development	_____
	Charles T. Lutz, Deputy Executive Director	_____
Presenter in Committee:	Mikkel Beckmen, Director, Office to End Homelessness	

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- City Goals: In five years all Minneapolis residents will have a better quality of life and access to housing and services.
- Sustainability Targets: Special Needs Housing - Rehabilitation
- Comprehensive Plan: 4.10 – Minneapolis will increase its housing that is affordable to low and moderate income households.

Supporting Information

In 2006 the Minneapolis City Council and Hennepin County Board voted to adopt the Heading Home Hennepin Plan, a 10 year plan to end homelessness in our community. The city, in early 2007, committed to funding an outreach effort targeted at connecting with and housing those who sleep outside in our city, a key strategy in the plan. The city contracted with St Stephen's Human services for these services, and has maintained that relationship up to the present. With new funds available through the Emergency Solutions Grant the city re-issued a RFP for these services that included both General fund and ESG funding, for a total of \$300,000 annually. The recommendations before you are for funding of outreach services at the level of approximately \$300,000 a year, renewable for five years based on annual evaluation of performance.

The City, in collaboration with the Minneapolis and Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness issued an RFP on October 25, 2013 seeking responses from outreach service providers within Minneapolis. Staff received three proposals. The proposals were reviewed by staff from both the City and Hennepin County. The following proposal is being recommended for funding:

St. Stephens, \$300,000 – For continuing their Street Outreach program, which provides outreach services to homeless individuals living in places not meant for human habitation. The Street Outreach program is designed to create behavior changes rather than just moving individuals into a cycle of jail and the streets. St. Stephens has fostered a coordinated system involving the Minneapolis Police Department, social service agencies, faith communities, businesses and neighborhood organizations.

Two additional applications were received by area non-profits proposing outreach services for homeless individuals in Minneapolis. These applications were not funded due to lack of resources.

The review of these proposals included the following elements:

1. Overall quality, thoroughness and clarity of the proposal.
2. Qualifications and experience of organization staff (includes a review of references).
3. How well the proposal/scope of services meets the grant objectives.
4. Cultural competency of the organization/staff/team.
5. Financial responsibility and capacity of the organization
6. Collaboration with other organizations, providers, agencies and non-profits
7. Experience working with people experiencing homelessness, particularly long-term homelessness
8. Costs and budgeting