



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Date: November 18, 2014

To: Council Member, Lisa Goodman, Chair, Community Development Committee

Referral to: City Council

Subject: Fiscal Agent Agreement for Project Homeless Connects

Recommendation: To authorize the Neighborhood and Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Director to execute the necessary agreement between the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County for the Family Housing Fund to serve as the fiscal agent for the Project Homeless Connect.

Previous Directives: None

Department Information

Prepared by: Mikkel Beckmen, Director, Office to End Homelessness

Approved by: Charles T. Lutz, Deputy Director _____

Approved by: Cathy Polasky, Director, Economic Development _____

Approved by: Jayne Khalifa, Interim City Coordinator _____

Presenters in Committee: Mikkel Beckmen, Director, Office to End Homelessness

Financial Impact

There are no direct financial impacts as a result of this action. The subject agreement authorizes the Family Housing Fund to serve as the fiscal agent for Project Homeless Connect for the purposes of accepting grants, contributions, and gifts to be used for the project.

Community Impact

Project Homeless Connect is part of the Heading Home Hennepin Plan and is a core program to address homelessness. Project Homeless Connect directly impacts the City Goal of:

- **A Safe Place to Call Home**
 - Homelessness Eliminated

Supporting Information

The Hennepin County and Minneapolis Office to End Homelessness (OEH) coordinates Project Homeless Connect, a "one-stop-shop" event to connect people experiencing homelessness to the variety of services they need. The OEH has held twelve events which in total have served over 10,000 people with the help of close to 5,000 volunteers. This event helps prove that greater efficiency is gained for both the guest and the provider by

co-locating multiple services in one location. Services range from housing and employment services to haircuts, dental and medical care, and birth certificate and ID services.

The Family Housing Fund (FHF) has been partnering with The Minneapolis/Hennepin County OEH since 2006 as the fiscal agent for Project Homeless Connect (PHC). Other than OEH staff time, PHC is funded entirely by private donations raised by OEH. These donations are sent to the FHF and earmarked for PHC. The Family Housing Fund then distributes these funds for activities associated with the events. The FHF donates all of the administration associated with managing the funds so 100 percent of all gifts are able to support PHC. Examples of uses of funds include: bus transportation for guests, state IDS and birth certificates, supplies, and follow-up assistance to guests, such as dental care or damage deposits.

This Fiscal Agent Agreement with Hennepin County and Minneapolis is important for The Family Housing Fund for their reporting to the IRS about the function they play in these events.

All contributions to Project Homeless Connect will need to be made out to the Family Housing Fund.