

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** Marc Jolin
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: Out of Target

Executive Summary

This program would help 420 people avoid homelessness by diverting them directly to permanent housing. In order to reduce homelessness we must reduce the number of people becoming homeless in our community. Done correctly, diversion is a much better strategy for the individual or family, because they avoid the trauma of becoming homeless, and for the community, because it can be substantially less costly to divert a person from homelessness than to help them end it once they have become homeless.

Program Summary

The Executive Committee of A Home for Everyone (AHFE) adopted a set of recommendations at its January 2015 meeting which, if fully implemented, will keep our community on track to reduce the unmet need for permanent housing by 50% by the end of 2017. These recommendations included reducing the inflow into homelessness by at least 1,000 people in the coming year, through a combination of prevention and diversion.

Prevention and diversion are similar in that both assist a person or family from becoming literally homeless, meaning sleeping on the streets, in shelter, or transitional housing. Prevention does this by helping someone who currently has a home from losing that home (e.g. a tenant facing eviction for non-payment of rent). Diversion assists someone who does not have permanent housing of their own to obtain permanent housing before becoming literally homeless (e.g. someone coming of long term-treatment transitions directly to permanent housing).

This program would fund at least 420 diversions from homelessness for AHFE priority populations, in particular for women, people of color and people with disabilities. It would do this primarily through three recommended strategies adopted by the Executive Committee, all of which have been shown to be effective at diverting people from homelessness:

- Flexible financial assistance for agencies coordinating access to shelter that allows them to help families sustain a current non-permanent living situation rather than come to shelter while working with them to find permanent housing;
- Staff and financial support to assist with placing people who are leaving healthcare and treatment programs directly into permanent housing;
- Long-distance transportation assistance to individuals and families with permanent housing options in other communities and who without the transportation assistance could not access that permanent housing and would instead access the local shelter system.

All of the providers contracted to provide services through this program will be culturally specific or culturally responsive. This program offer is scalable based on a cost per person served. This is a joint City of Portland Multnomah County funded program.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Primary Measure | FY15 Actual | FY16 Purchased | FY16 Estimate | FY17 Offer |
|--------------|--|-------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| Output | Number of individuals receiving diversion assistance | NA | NA | NA | 500 |
| Outcome | Number of individuals who receive diversion assistance who access shelter within 12 months | NA | NA | NA | 80 |
| Outcome | Number of diversions from homelessness | NA | NA | NA | 420 |

Performance Measures Descriptions

To achieve the outcome target of 420 diversions, if approximately 20% of those served will nonetheless end up accessing shelter during that year, then the # served must be at least 500. Measures assume that both this program offer and the parallel proposal for City of Portland general fund are fully funded. Both jurisdictions are requested to contribute revenues to the measures projected. Measures will be adjusted accordingly in the event that either jurisdiction does not fully fund the request.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

This program offer represents portions of the following AHFE proposed investment priorities: Discharge Planning (HLH.4), Eviction Prevention for All Populations (HSG.4) and Contingency Assistance Pool (HSG.6).

Revenue/Expense Detail

| | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2016 | 2016 | 2017 | 2017 |
| Contractual Services | \$0 | \$0 | \$294,800 | \$0 |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$0 | \$0 | \$294,800 | \$0 |
| Program Total: | \$0 | | \$294,800 | |
| Program FTE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Program Revenues | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: