



Legislation Text

File #: 17-0349, **Version:** 1

Resolution Approving the City of Hampton, Virginia's Participation in and Appropriation of the 2016 Continuum of Care (CoC) Housing Crisis Hotline Grant through the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

The Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Continuum (GVPHC) serves as the local Continuum of Care (CoC) and as such has the ability to apply for and receive Federal and State grants. Grant funding is received for the Greater Virginia Peninsula region. This region includes the cities of Hampton (Lead Agency), Newport News, Williamsburg, Poquoson and the counties of York and James City. The region is labeled as VA505. Grants are used for the sole purpose of ending homelessness in the region. This specific grant will provide support to the Regional Housing Crisis Hotline. This service is provided by ForKids, a Norfolk based housing partner. ForKids manage the Housing Crisis Hotline for the Greater Virginia Peninsula, Norfolk, Western Tidewater and VA Beach. All three CoC's provide funding to support this effort.

In 2013 the GVPHC developed a systematic plan to design a regional hotline. This hotline would allow a person experiencing literal homelessness or those experiencing the threat of homelessness to use one central number that would access all housing providers. It was determined that using an existing service would be the most cost effective. ForKids is currently providing the service to the Norfolk CoC and was selected as the GVPHC provider. Startup capital was needed and the GVPHC pursued private funding sources. In 2014, the GVPHC applied for and was awarded a three year grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 from the Peninsula Community Foundation/Ferguson Enterprises. In October 2016 that funding was exhausted. Grant applications were submitted to both federal and state governments and awards were received. The GVPHC has been able to continue the regional hotline services and since 2014 other partners have joined the hotline thus reducing the cost per partner. This is the second year HUD has been the award for this grant.

Discussion:

The GVPHC is well on its way to meeting the goals of "Opening Doors", the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness: by being client-focused and data driven. The CoC will continue to prioritize the most vulnerable families/individuals, with special focus on veterans, those experiencing chronic homelessness and youth. The hotline allows the CoC to screen for eligible customers and make direct referrals to housing providers. Centralizing services with one intake provider reduces the time and stress of citizens when seeking services. While screening, the hotline is also collecting data that is used to determine the communities' needs and direction the GVPHC will take.

As a regional body, matching funds for grants are leveraged from other localities. No matching funds are requested from the City of Hampton for this grant. The City will not incur any financial burden as related to this grant request.

Impact:

Impact information is listed in the above section. This grant impacts the Federal Strategic Plan to reduce/end homelessness and is also directly related to the regional 10 year plan to end homelessness. The regional Continuum of Care (CoC) has adopted the vision that homelessness will be rare, brief and non-recurring.

Recommendation:

Approve.

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded a 2016 Continuum of Care (CoC) Housing Crisis Hotline Grant to the City of Hampton, Virginia in the amount of \$65,682.00 with no local match required; and

WHEREAS, the grant award covers the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Hampton, Virginia accepts and appropriates the 2016 CoC Housing Crisis Hotline in the amount of \$65,682.000 with no local match required, for a total grant amount of \$65,682.00, and any related supplemental funding, by HUD in accordance with the grant agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the City Manager, or her designee, to take the necessary steps to implement this grant award.