

**HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE OF STARK COUNTY**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**ESG CARES Act Conference Call**  
**Tuesday, May 12, 2020**  
**11am Conference Call**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Lynne Dragomier; Lisa Warden; Rollin Seward; Kim Kroh; Danelle Lightner; Shannon McMahon Williams; JoAnn Breedlove; Captain Gabbard

**I. Welcome**

At 11:03a.m., Marcie Bragg, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) CARES Act conference call. Marcie thanked the Board members for joining the conference call immediately following the full HCCSC Board meeting.

**II. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) CARES Act Funding Recommendation**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has set aside \$4 billion in ESG awards in response to the COVID19 pandemic. The first round of ESG CARES Act allocations totaled \$1 billion in awards. The City of Canton (recipient of ESG awards) received \$783,834; after the City of Canton's administration fee, there is a total of \$705,459 that can be distributed to area agencies that are seeking ESG CARES Act funding to serve the residents of the City of Canton. ESG CARES Act eligible activities include: Homeless Prevention; Street Outreach; Shelter Activities; Rapid Rehousing; and HMIS. The ESG CARES Act awards can be utilized to support past expenses occurred since March 2020 and the deadline for expending the award is September 30, 2022.

The Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHNI) has participated in various webinars and conference calls to learn more about prioritizing funding for Stark County. Additional ESG CARES Act funding will be awarded at a later date; at this time the date is unknown. The City of Canton was encouraged by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to revise their Consolidated Plan as the fastest way to receive the ESG awards; the City of Canton has revised the Con Plan for this funding opportunity. The SHNI worked in conjunction with Shannon McMahon Williams, Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee chair, on a process for prioritizing project types and created a document to obtain agency interest in the funding. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the SHNI released a Letter of Intent (LoI) for agencies interested in receiving ESG CARES Act funding; the LoI deadline for return to the SHNI was May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The SHNI received eight LoI's which were outlined in an excel spreadsheet that was provided to the board members.

For the first round of ESG CARES Act funding awards, the SHNI in conjunction with the RAEC chair prioritized shelter and homeless prevention for the community's immediate need. The SHNI did receive a request for Rapid Rehousing (RRH) that will be considered for the second round of awards. Additionally, there is a lack of HUD guidance on the process to utilize RRH funding. The HCCSC is currently revising policies in response to the new funding that is specific to the ESG CARES Act funding; the HCCSC is waiting for more guidance from HUD before finalizing the policies.

The SHNI received four LoI requests for shelter operations and all four LoIs are being recommended for funding; two agencies outside of the City of Canton will utilize funds for Coordinated Entry referrals of City of Canton residents. The SHNI received three LoI requests for Homeless Prevention, one of which is not

being recommended for funding at this time due to past concerns about the agency's ability to spend down ESG funding awards. The SHNI received one LoI request for RRH which is not being recommended for funding during the first award allocation, but will be considered during the second round of funding. In the excel spreadsheet being reviewed, Board members will see a 10% Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) line item. The SHNI and RAEC chair discussed a one-time 10% allocation for HMIS to plan for capacity of the new funding being disbursed, reports that will be associated with the grants, data entry and establishing new projects in the HMIS. If the HMIS lead agency does not accept the CARES Act funding, the recommendation is to split the amount dedicated to HMIS activities between the two agencies being recommended for Homeless Prevention funding.

Discussion: HCCSC Board members discussed how agencies are aware if they have been recommended for the ESG CARES Act funding and if applicants that are not being recommended for funding will be notified and provided a reason that they were not recommended. The City of Canton will provide notification to the applicants that will be sub-recipients and provide the agency with a grant agreement; applicants that are not recommended for funding will be notified and provided an explanation of why funding was not allocated for the request. Marcie reminded Board members of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) Emergency Housing Assistance Grant Program award that Stark County received; only one agency applied for both shelter and Homeless Prevention. The SHNI and RAEC chair is recommending that the funding be utilized for Homeless Prevention and split between the two agencies receiving Homeless Prevention funding through the CARES Act. The ESG CARES Act funding is for the City of Canton residents and the OHFA funding targets residents of greater Stark County. The recommendation to split this funding between two providers is to provide an opportunity for all residents to have access to homeless prevention assistance regardless of their address or affiliation with a provider.

Motion: Marcie requested a motion to approve the Emergency Solution Grant CARES Act funding recommendation in the amount of \$705,459 as presented in the attached Excel spreadsheet with the understanding that the HMIS award will be split between ICAN Housing and Alliance for Children and Families Homeless Prevention awards if StarkMHAR declines the funding award for HMIS. Shannon motioned to approve. Danelle seconded the motion and the motion was carried by all members present.

Discussion: Marcie will connect with StarkMHAR before sending the recommendation to the City of Canton.

## V. **Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, at 11:31am, the meeting adjourned.

*Attachment 2 – The final HCCSC Board funding recommendation made to the City of Canton.*

**ESG Funding \$705,459**

2020 - \$176,365 (7 months)

2021 - \$302,340 (12 months)

2022 - \$226,755 (9 months)

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>ACTIVIITES</b>	<b>APPLICATION AMOUNT</b>	<b>REVISED AMOUNT</b>
CommQuest	Shelter Operations/Essential Services	\$34,000	\$34,000
Refuge of Hope	Shelter Operations	\$84,600	\$84,600
DVPI	Shelter Operations/Essential Services	\$30,000	\$30,000
ACF	Temp Shelter/Essential Serv/Oper	\$51,075	\$51,075
ACF	RRH	\$245,000	\$0
ACF	Homeless Prevention	\$180,000	\$174,085
CommQuest	Homeless Prevention	\$125,000	\$0
ICAN Housing	Homeless Prevention	\$267,069	\$261,154
StarkMHAR	HMIS (10% of \$705,459)		\$70,545
	<b>TOTAL AMT OF REQUESTS</b>	<b>\$1,016,744</b>	<b>\$705,459</b>
	<i>Amount Remaining</i>	<i>(\$311,285)</i>	<i>\$0</i>

**ESG Funding \$705,459**

	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>ACTIVIITES</b>	<b>APPLICATION AMOUNT</b>	<b>REVISED AMOUNT</b>	<b>FINAL RECOMMENDATION</b>
2020 - \$176,365 (7 months)					
2021 - \$302,340 (12 months)	CommQuest	Shelter Operations/Essential Services	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000
2022 - \$226,755 (9 months)	Refuge of Hope	Shelter Operations	\$84,600	\$84,600	\$84,600
	DVPI	Shelter Operations/Essential Services	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
	ACF	Temp Shelter/Essential Serv/Oper	\$51,075	\$51,075	\$51,075
	ACF	RRH	\$245,000	\$0	\$0
	ACF	Homeless Prevention	\$180,000	\$174,085	\$209,357
	CommQuest	Homeless Prevention	\$125,000	\$0	
	ICAN Housing	Homeless Prevention	\$267,069	\$261,154	\$296,427
	StarkMHAR	HMIS (10% of \$705,459)		\$70,545	\$0
		<b>TOTAL AMT OF REQUESTS</b>	<b>\$1,016,744</b>	<b>\$705,459</b>	<b>\$705,459</b>
		<i>Amount Remaining</i>	<i>(\$311,285)</i>	\$0	