

HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE OF STARK COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
ESG CARES Act Conference Call
Tuesday, August 11, 2020
9:30am Zoom Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Lynne Dragomier; Lisa Warden; Rollin Seward; Kim Kroh; Danelle Lightner; Shannon McMahon Williams; JoAnn Breedlove; Captain Gabbard; Martin Chumney; Stephane Inchack and Cathy Jennings.

I. Welcome

At 9:31 a.m., Marcie Bragg, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) CARES Act Round Two Zoom meeting. Marcie thanked Board members for joining the Zoom meeting to discuss and approve the ESG CARES Act Round Two recommendations. Marcie stated that the HCCSC Board would wait to approve the July meeting minutes until the full Board is in attendance. Today's focus will be for the ESG CARES Act Round 2 funding recommendations and any old or new business.

II. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) CARES Act Round Two Funding Recommendation (*See Attachment 1*)

Shannon McMahon Williams, Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee (RAEC) chair and HCCSC Board member, led the HCCSC Board through the RAEC recommendations for ESG CARES Act allocations. Shannon stated that she and Renee Biggums, of the City of Canton, are members of the RAEC who reviewed and provided recommendations for ESG CARES Act funding allocations.

Shannon reported that Congress has provided \$4 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) program for local governments to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among individuals and families who are homeless, receiving homeless assistance, or are at risk of becoming homeless; the typical ESG award across the nation is around \$290 million. The City of Canton is the recipient of the ESG-CV award and works closely with the Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHNI) and the HCCSC's RAEC to prioritize funding based on the homeless system's current needs. This one-time ESG-CV funding opportunity is set to expire on September 30, 2022.

At the time of 9:45am, Lisa Warden joined the meeting.

Shannon reviewed Round 1 funding allocations that were Board approved on May 12th, 2020. For the first round of ESG-CV funding awards, priority was given to emergency shelter and homeless prevention to address the community's immediate need. The SHNI did receive a request for Rapid Rehousing (RRH); RRH will be considered for the second round of awards. The SHNI received four Letter Of Inquiry (LOI) requests for shelter operations and all four LOI's were 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 was not recommended for funding due to past concerns of the agency's ability to spend down the full award.

HUD distributed 1 billion in ESG-CV awards for the first round of funding allocations and Round 2 allocations were based on a new formula for those communities that were affected the most by COVID19. Round 2 allocations to the City of Canton were higher than Round 1. The RAEC received all LOI's submitted to the SHNI for review and discussion on August 5th, 2020. ESG-CV Round 2 funding was available for all eligible project types, with priority given to rapid rehousing projects. The SHNI released a LOI form on July 14, 2020 and received seven completed LOIs by the July 24, 2020 deadline.

Discussion: The HCCSC Board discussed each agencies capacity and the project priority type for the ESG-CV Round 2 allocations. An agency applying for RRH in Round 2 was awarded funding for shelter operations in Round 1 and received an award for homelessness prevention from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) funding opportunity; the Board discussed the delay in data that has been requested and data that has to be reported out on. StarkMHAR also submitted an LOI for the HMIS project for enhancing the system and to utilize the efficiency of system. One agency will receive a higher dollar amount than requested to allocate the remaining ESG-CV balance (\$13,046) awarded to the City of Canton; the order of priority indicate that the top project would be awarded the remaining balance.

Motion: Marcie requested a motion to approve the Emergency Solution Grant CARES Act Round 2 funding recommendations in the amount of \$738,046 as listed in priority on the attached document for ICAN Housing (\$388,046), Refuge of Hope (\$250,000) and StarkMHAR / HMIS (\$100,000). Shannon motioned to approve. Marty seconded the motion and the motion was carried by all members present.

Discussion:

- a. Marcie will forward the HCCSC Board's ESG-CV Round 2 funding recommendations to the City of Canton (City) for final approval.
- b. Marcie asked if there were any updates from the City regarding the ESG-CV Round 1 and 2 timelines. Rollin indicated that the City had to revise the 2019 Action Plan to receive the Round 1 award and HUD has approved the revised 2019 plan. The City has an open line of credit for Round 1 funding and expects that agencies will be contracted within 30days. The City will also need to revise the 2020 Action Plan to receive the Round 2 award and expects a line of credit for Round 2 in October.
- c. Coordinated Entry Committee is working on policies to ensure compliance with different funding streams and updates based on COVID19 guidance.
- d. Referrals for all project types will be sought through the Coordinated Entry process. This process is under discussion as the OHFA project types are not required to have a full SPDAT assessment to receive assistance; the Coordinated Entry Committee is reviewing methods of prioritization and administration of the projects.
- e. There is some funding available from COHHIO for TANF dollars; three agencies applied for this funding. Marcie spoke to Danelle regarding the number of TANF eligible households and provided this data to applicants to be able to utilize in the application process.

III. Old / New Business

Shannon McMahan Williams shared a personal announcement with the Board.

IV. Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, at 9:35am, the meeting adjourned.

Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) Project Allocation Round 1 & 2

Congress has provided \$4 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) program for local governments to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among individuals and families who are homeless, receiving homeless assistance, or are at risk of becoming homeless. The City of Canton is the recipient of the ESG-CV award and works closely with the Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHNI) and the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County's (HCCSC's) Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee (RAEC) to prioritize funding based on the homeless system's current needs. This one-time ESG-CV funding opportunity is set to expire on March 30, 2022.

ESG-CV Round 1

- Allocation of ESG-CV Round 1 funding: \$783,843 (10% City of Canton administrative fee: \$78,384)
- **Amount available for project allocation: \$705,459.**
- The SHNI released a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) form on May 1, 2020 and received eight completed LOIs by the May 8, 2020 deadline.
- Round 1 funding awards were targeted for the homeless system's immediate needs.
- HCCSC Board approved Round 1 of the ESG-CV project allocations in the amount of \$705,459 on May 12, 2020 for the following projects:
 - Emergency Shelters - \$199,675
 1. CommQuest - \$34,000
 2. Refuge of Hope - \$84,600
 3. Domestic Violence Project, Inc. - \$30,000
 4. Alliance for Children and Families - \$51,075
 - Homelessness Prevention - \$505,784
 1. Alliance for Children and Families - \$209,357
 2. ICAN Housing - \$296,427

ESG-CV Round 2 – Recommendation

- Allocation of ESG-CV Round 2 funding: \$820,051 (10% City of Canton administrative fee: \$82,005).
- **Amount available for project allocation: \$738,046.**
- Round 2 funding was available for all eligible project types, with priority given to rapid rehousing projects.
- The SHNI released a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) form on July 14, 2020 and received seven completed LOIs by the July 24, 2020 deadline.
- The RAEC met on August 5, 2020 and is recommending Round 2 ESG-CV allocations to the following projects:
 1. ICAN Housing, "ESG-CV Rapid Rehousing" - **\$388,046**
 2. Refuge of Hope, "Rapid Rehousing Relocation & Stabilization Financial Assistance" - **\$250,000**
 3. Stark Mental Health and Addiction Recovery, "Homeless Navigation Enhanced" - **\$100,000**