

**Recipient Approval & Evaluation Committee (RAEC) of the
Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC)**

Meeting Minutes: August 5, 2020

Conference Call

Attendees: Shannon McMahon Williams, Bob Fernandez, Bob Fay, Amy Krebs, Renee Biggums; Marcie Bragg, and Melissa Terrell

I. Welcome, Introductions

At 10:01am, Shannon McMahon Williams, committee chair, called the meeting to order. Shannon shared with the committee that this is a quarterly meeting that the group has not typically held in the past due to the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program funding competition and the committee agreeing to meet on other various days. Due to the need to have CoCs focus on responding to the pandemic, the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not released a notice regarding the 2020 CoC Program competition. Shannon sent out an email meeting reminder that included a summary of the projects being recommended for round two Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG CV) funding. The Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee (RAEC) will review the recommendations and approve a final recommendation that will be made the HCCSC Board for ESG-CV Round 2 allocations.

II. ESG-CV Review

HUD set aside \$4 billion in ESG-CV awards in response to the COVID19 pandemic. The first round of ESG-CV 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 was a total of \$705,459 available for distribution to area agencies seeking ESG-CV funding to serve the residents of the City of Canton. ESG-CV eligible activities include: Homeless Prevention; Street Outreach; Shelter Activities; Rapid Rehousing; and HMIS. The ESG-CV awards can be utilized to support past expenses occurred since March 2020 and the deadline for expending the award is September 30, 2022. ESG-CV Round 2 allocations were based on a new formula for those communities that were affected most by COVID19; Round 2 allocations to the City of Canton were higher than Round 1. The City of Canton received \$820,501 in ESG-CV Round 2 funding; after the City of Canton's administration fee, there is a total of \$738,046 available for project allocation.

The Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHNI) released a Letter Of Inquiry (LOI) on July 14, 2020 for ESG-CV Round 2 funding and received seven completed LOIs by the July 24, 2020 deadline. The RAEC received all LOI's prior to the meeting that were submitted to the SHNI for review. ESG-CV Round 2 funding was available for all eligible project types, with priority given to rapid rehousing projects. A small group including Shannon, Renee of the City of Canton and SHNI met to review the seven LOIs submitted to the SHNI. The small group discussed the previous ESG-CV Round 1 award, additional funding sources available for Stark County providers, and providers' current capacity to administer the Round 2 ESG-CV award. Marcie pointed out that if ESG-CV funding is allocated to agencies who currently do not enter information into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that these newly funded agencies will need to complete HMIS training and will be required to enter program data into HMIS. Final program guidelines for ESG-CV funding have not been released by HUD. The HCCSC is waiting for additional HUD guidance for the ESG-CV program requirements and prioritization for COVID hardship claims.

Shannon provided a summary of Round 2 ESG-CV recommendations in an email sent to committee members prior to the quarterly meeting. The committee discussed how projects were prioritized for allocation. Although all program types were eligible activities, based on Round 1 allocations and HUD guidance (guidance from webinars or HUD office hours regarding RRH projects), the small group is recommending the projects presented in the email (and dollar amount) be considered for approval and recommendation to the HCCSC Board. The committee was informed that one provider is being recommended for more than requested in order for the entire amount available to be allocated to projects. HMIS was amongst those LOIs received and is for system enhancement; StarkMHAR Partner

Solutions HMIS Administrator is currently discussing costs with the HMIS vendor, Adsystem, for system enhancement. With the amount of new funding coming into Stark, and the need for HMIS generated reports, the system enhancement will assist the efforts in capturing new project data and compliance with reporting requirements.

Discussion: The committee discussed the agencies that are not being recommended for Round 2 ESG-CV allocations. There was a request for funding that did not seem to be a good fit for recommendation; the goal of ESG-CV funding is to assist persons that are at the front door of the homeless system and one request did not aim to serve this population. LOIs submitted that are not being recommended for Round 2 ESG-CV allocation include requests that are better suited for an alternative funding source, activities that were funded in Round 1, and requests from agencies whose capacity to administer more new programs is currently limited. The committee questioned how those agencies will be informed that they are not being selected for Round 2 ESG-CV allocations; the City of Canton will provide the agencies with a letter and synopsis of project acceptance or denial. The committee discussed additional funding resources available in the community and types of assistance being offered by agencies; United Way and Stark Community Action Agency have programs for rent and utility assistance.

The RAEC is recommending that the following projects and dollar amounts be recommended for approval and provided to the HCCSC Board for approval and recommendation to the City of Canton for final approval:

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

Motion: Shannon requested a motion to approve the recommended Emergency Solution Grant CARES Act Round 2 allocations for Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County Board approval and recommendation to the City of Canton for final approval. Bob Fernandez motioned to approve. Bob Fay seconded the motion and it was carried by all members present.

IV. New / Old Business

Shannon provided a personal update to committee members.

V. General Announcements

A. 2020 meetings:

1. November 4th 9am-11am

VI. Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, at 10:44am the meeting adjourned.