



Memorandum

Date: July 9, 2019
To: Mark D. Israelson, City Manager
From: Shanette Eaden, Housing and Community Services Manager
Subject: Homeless Housing and Services Program

Summary

City of Plano is entitled to receive Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for persons who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. In fiscal year 2019-20, the City expects to receive HHSP funds in the amount of \$133,789. Additionally, the City expects to receive new funding for HHSP eligible activities of approximately \$35,150 in Ending Homelessness (EH) funds and \$40,956 in HHSP Youth Set-Aside funds. All TDHCA funds must be expended during the state's fiscal year which begins on September 1, 2019 and ends August 31, 2020.

Background

Texas Government Code §2306.2585 allocates State general funds in the form of HHSP to any municipality with a population of 285,000 or more, per the 1 Year American Community Survey (ACS) data. These funds are appropriated annually by the legislature using a formula allocation. These funds may be used for construction, development or procurement of housing for homeless persons; rehabilitation of structures targeted to serving homeless persons or persons at-risk of homelessness; provision of direct services and case management to homeless persons or persons at-risk of homelessness; or, other homelessness-related activity as approved by TDHCA. The City of Plano is one of nine cities that receive these funds. Additional HHSP recipients include the cities of Arlington, Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Fort Worth. Eligible cities may choose whether to receive the funds directly or give their entitlement allocation to a nonprofit entity to serve as the direct funding recipient with TDHCA in their place.

The City of Plano became an HHSP recipient on September 1, 2018. Using a competitive Request for Proposals process, the City of Plano selected a collaborative application between City House, Inc. and the Assistance Center of Collin County to administer a Rapid Re-Housing Program. City House, Inc. serves as the lead agency for the program and ensures that all program recipients receive the necessary services to become self-sufficient. The program, which began in December 2018, provides financial assistance and case management support to assist Plano's homeless population with obtaining affordable rental housing within Plano city limits. Program participants can receive assistance with security and utility deposits, payment of rental arrears, up to twelve months of rental assistance, ongoing case management, and payment of essential services as needed, such as transportation or childcare. Since the program's inception, the program has assisted 17 individuals obtain housing. As participants exit the program, City House will track housing retention to measure program success.

The City of Plano plans to use the new HHSP funding sources to support its existing Rapid Re-housing program by increasing the level of case management provided to participants and funding a new Housing Navigator position that will specialize in locating rental units, as well as interfacing with property managers and owners who lease to program participants.

TDHCA reimburses the City for expenditures and the City must report monthly on the status of the funds through the State's online contracting system. Any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year are returned to the State's general fund.

Next Steps

If approved, the City Manager will enter into three contracts with TDHCA for HHSP, HHSP Youth Set-Aside, and EH funds in a total amount not to exceed \$209,895 for the period of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

xc: Jack Carr, Deputy City Manager
Lori Schwarz, Director of Neighborhood Services