



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Housing and
Community
Development
Department No.: 055
For Agenda Of: 09/22/2009
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department John McInnes, 568-3552
Director
Contact Info: Carlos Jimenez, Division Manager, 568-3523
**SUBJECT: ARRA: Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP),
Recommended Subrecipient Awards**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve Subrecipient Award Recommendations Totaling \$808,288 under the Homeless Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing Program (Attachment A); and
2. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to Execute Subrecipient Agreements with Recommended Homelessness Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing Subgrantees, (Attachments B, C and D).

Summary Text:

Pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the Obama Administration created a new program in the context of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) existing Emergency Shelter Grant Program. Under the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing Program (HPRP), the County of Santa Barbara was allocated \$829,013 for administration and implementation of activities related to HPRP. The overall goals of the HPRP are to prevent homelessness and rapidly re-house low-income households who have recently become homeless. HPRP provides direct financial assistance to cover expenses such as rental payments, utility payments, legal

fees, and security deposits, among other items; it also allows for case management services on behalf of organizations providing funding to clients meeting HPRP qualifying criteria.

Based on a federal register notice issued on March 19, 2009, the County of Santa Barbara Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) prepared a Substantial Amendment to the County of Santa Barbara's Consolidated Plan's 2008-09 Annual Action Plan, articulating how the County intended to utilize HPRP funding under ARRA. Concurrently, County staff conducted local outreach, developed a program design and issued a local Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The County received six (6) applications, totaling \$1,131,156, in response to the NOFA and subsequently convened a review committee to evaluate the proposals and make recommendations for funding. The recommended Board actions above are consistent with the review committees findings and recommendations.

Background:

I) Funding Process and Development

On March 19th, 2009, HUD released a Notice of Allocations, Procedures, and Requirements for HPRP Grantees. The notice articulated program guidance and detail related to activities eligible for funding, critical dates, milestones and timelines, specific regulations regarding the administration of HPRP funds, reporting requirements, as well as numerous additional federal overlays. In this regard, HCD immediately initiated community outreach efforts in order to: 1) assess the current programming and service delivery of existing HPRP-like activities; and 2) to develop program priorities and identify potential programs and partnerships to implement the HPRP program. A survey instrument was developed and disseminated and staff concluded that due to a lack of prior funding for programs of this nature, there was a great need for HPRP and the number of organizations currently providing this particular service is limited.

In addition to the survey instrument, staff attended community meetings in both North and South County in order to develop a sense of local needs and priorities that would inform a future Notice of Funding Availability under HPRP. In this respect, HCD staff conducted outreach and presentations to each of the three City/County Homeless Coalitions located in Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Barbara. In addition, staff also conferred with the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness Leadership Committee to determine if there was an appropriate implementation role for the organization. Based on this analysis, however, it was determined that an application process encouraging community collaboration would most effectively meet the need, spirit and intent of HPRP.

Subsequent to this outreach, HCD prepared a Substantial Amendment to the County of Santa Barbara's Consolidated Plan's 2008-09 Annual Action Plan as mandated by HUD. At its May 5, 2009 public hearing, the Board of Supervisors approved submittal of the Substantial Amendment to HUD's Washington Headquarters for review and subsequent approval. The Substantial Amendment effectively served as the County's formal grant application to HUD for the HPRP funding. On June 25, 2009 the County received written notification from HUD's Washington Headquarters (Attachment E), that its HPRP Substantial Amendment had been approved. A formal grant agreement realizing the funding was provided to the County on August 24, 2009.

Based on HUD's approval of the County's Substantial Amendment and the community's input, HCD issued an HPRP Notice of Funding Availability on July 7, 2009. The deadline for application for funding consideration was July 31, 2009. Upon the close of the application period, the County received

six (6), applications for HPRP funding, two from North County organizations and four from South County applicants. A three-member review committee comprised of individuals who have served in an advisory capacity under the County’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Human Services and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs, reviewed each HPRP application, interviewed HPRP applicants and developed recommendations. The review committee’s recommendations were based on: 1) Eligibility under HPRP; 2) Number of Beneficiaries Proposed to be Served; 3) Geographic Area Coverage; 4) Program Evaluation Process; 5) Collaborative Nature of Application; and 6) Reporting Capacity.

HCD served as staff for the Committee during the review and evaluation process, providing programmatic and regulatory technical assistance and addressing clarifying questions pertaining to the specific proposals. This insured that the award recommendations were consistent with the County’s overall needs and priorities to addressing homeless prevention, and in compliance with the regulatory framework and guidelines established by HUD under HPRP. Moreover, they are well-suited to prevent homelessness and rapidly re-house local residents imminently facing homelessness or recently having become homeless.

II) Funding Recommendations:

The table below summarizes the applications that were received, the nature of the activity to be undertaken, the amount of funding requested and the recommended funding.

Applicant/Region	Eligible Activities	Collaborative Partnerships	Amount Requested	Funding Recommendation
Good Samaritan Shelters, Inc. North County Region	Homeless Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Case Management, Legal Services	Catholic Charities, Legal Aid	\$323,315	\$323,315
Peoples’ Self Help Housing Corporation North County Region	Case Management	None, Single Agency Application	\$100,000	0
Transition House: South County Region	Homeless Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Case Management	Casa Esperanza	\$484,973	\$442,973
Legal Aid	Legal and Mediation Services	Santa Barbara Rental Housing Mediation Task Force	\$84,000	\$42,000
Peoples’ Self Help Housing Corporation North County Region	Case Management	None, Single Agency Application	\$100,000	0
Santa Barbara County Community Housing Corporation	Case Management	None, Single Agency Application	\$38,868	0
Total Request Amount			\$1,131,156	
Funding Request Recommendation Total				\$808,288

The North County area collaborative includes case management provided by Good Samaritan Shelters, legal services from the Legal Aid Foundation, and direct financial assistance provided through Catholic Charities. Good Samaritan Shelters assumed the lead role in this collaborative model and will serve as the collaborative’s fiduciary and program agent, as well as the principal interface between the collaborative and County HCD. Each agency within the collaborative has similar existing programs in

place, however, none have received the level of funding made available prior to development of HPRP. The additional HPRP funds awarded through this process will allow for a significantly larger portion of the community to access and benefit from these services. The case management funding under HPRP will also allow for hiring of additional staff in order to implement the program in a timely fashion as well as to provide accurate reporting and recordkeeping pursuant to ARRA.

The South Coast collaborative is comprised of Transition House and Casa Esperanza. These two organizations have existing programs in place to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless through providing security deposit and rental assistance as well as intensive and extensive case management services. Moreover, a great percentage of the South County homeless population and those in need of services moves through either of these organizations at any given point in time. The additional HPRP funding under this collaborative model will allow the programs to assist a significantly larger number of people in the South Coast area as well as reducing the period of time that they remain in shelters or other environments once having become homeless.

An additional South County collaborative, comprised of the Legal Aid Foundation and the Rental Housing Mediation Task Force, will focus only on providing legal and housing mediation services to HPRP eligible clients. Preventing homelessness by helping people keep their homes through legal assistance and mediations with landlords are considered essential to the HPRP program. Although the collaborative requested \$84,000 in total funding, during the review process it was conveyed that the Rental Housing Mediation Task Force would utilize its portion of the funding to backfill CDBG funds that had been cut recently by the City of Goleta. Therefore, the review committee determined to fund the application at half of the total grant request amount of \$42,000. It is also important to note that the legal services provided by Legal Aid will be available to North County residents through the respective collaborative described above.

Three applications are not being recommended for funding at this time including two that were submitted by Peoples' Self-Help Housing and one by the Santa Barbara Community Housing Corporation. Both HCD and the review committee determined that the services contained in Peoples' Self-Help Housing's applications were not as well-suited to meet HUD's HPRP criteria as well as the County's local program design specifically and were therefore less competitive in the context of collaborative applications providing a menu of HPRP-related services. With respect to the Community Housing Corporation's application submittal, the applicant indicated during the review process that the funding request would be utilized to backfill past funding that the organization had received under another grant. This backfilling of funding was deemed ineligible based on the fact that HPRP is a new program initiative and not meant to replace former program funding.

Performance Measure:

Housing Opportunities for all Segments of the Population

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

A budget revision in the amount of \$829,013 will be prepared for Board consideration once HUD has provided the County with the funding for the HPRP program.

Fiscal Analysis:

The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing program allows for a maximum of 5% of funds (\$41,450) to be used for administrative purposes. Program regulations also mandate that the County

share these administrative funds with subgrantees. Therefore, County HCD will receive \$20,725 of administrative funds over three years since these funds will be split 50/50 with subgrantees. Administrative funds are used to offset a portion of the costs associated with facilitating this new program.

Staffing Impacts:

The County of Santa Barbara and HCD staff is undertaking this ARRA funding initiative and ongoing administration and management in conjunction with its regular work program in order to provide benefit to the community and its residents overall.

Special Instructions:

Upon execution of the attached Subrecipient Agreements, please contact Mike Sederholm at extension 1090 for pickup.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Recommended Homelessness Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing Program Awards

Attachment B: Subrecipient Agreement with Transition House

Attachment C: Subrecipient Agreement with Good Samaritan Shelters, Inc.

Attachment D: Subrecipient Agreement with Legal Aid Foundation

Attachment E: HUD Correspondence to County re: HPRP Substantial Amendment Approval

Authored by:

Mike Sederholm

