

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday May 11th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Kelly Adams, Rick Walk

Tumwater: Michael Althaus, Joan Cathey, Brad Medrud

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone, Darian Lightfoot

Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Tom Webster, Jacinda Steltjes

South County: None

Public: NA

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved, motion and second

Agenda Item 2: Minutes from April 27th meeting, motion and second, approved

Agenda Item 3: 2022 RFP Recommendations

Tom gave an overview. There are three sources of funds to award under the RFP: Capital funds including Federal funds and local 2060 funds, Cold and Hazardous Weather 2163 funds, and extra CHG funds from Commerce. Applications were reviewed by the Technical team. For the Capital projects, 2 members of the Affordable Housing team also reviewed the capital applications. The RHC funding workgroup reviewed the recommendations made by the Technical Team. RHC funding workgroup recommendations are presented to the RHC today, for final recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Tom gave an overview of timing on awards, HUD Annual Action plan deadlines, and start dates for new contracts.

Capital Awards discussion: The County does not have an exact award amount for HOME funds. Five applications were received. The funding workgroup is recommending awards to 3 projects:

- Habitat for Humanity \$540,000
- LIHI \$460,000
- Thurston Housing Land Trust \$200,000

Discussion followed regarding what the Technical Team considered in their review, including background information on the Land Trust, providing leverage for Land Trust to access other funding sources. Discussion followed on other applicants, including Homesfirst, they did not have a specific project identified whereas the Land Trust had a specific project. There are also still CDBG funds available for Homesfirst. The Habitat project is a phased project that has gotten support on earlier phases. The funding request is a gap in funding resulting from recent cost increases. They are ready to break ground. The LIHI project is another project in progress with a gap in funding.

Motion: 2022 Capital funding awards approved as recommended by the funding group. Motion and second, all approved.

There is \$400,000 available for cold and hazardous weather 2163 projects, but they did not receive requests for \$400,000 in cold/hazardous weather projects. They have \$300,000 of CHG funds available, and roughly \$1.4M in requests for CHG funds. To maximize the use of funds, the Technical team is making a recommendation to use all of the funds available, including funding some of the CHG requests with 2163 funds.

Tom gave a summary of the Cold weather and Hazardous weather requests, including which projects have been previously funded, and what agencies applied. The Technical team is recommending full funding for all Cold/Hazardous weather requests except Community Youth Services.

For the CHG funds, many of the projects applied for funding that will be supplemental funds for the projects that were just approved for year 2 of their 2-year CHG projects. Community Youth Services CHG application is for full services for their year-round shelter, and the Technical Team recommended funding their year-round shelter at the full funding level, rather than their cold weather shelter, using the \$400,000 2163 fund. The remaining 2163 funding is proposed to go to Catholic Community Services.

\$400,000 of 2163 funds recommendations:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| • Interfaith | Hazardous Weather | \$30,000 |
| • Family Support Center | Cold/Hazardous Weather | \$186,715 |
| • Pipe Cold weather | Cold Weather | \$40,000 |
| • Pipe Hazardous weather | Hazardous Weather | \$18,000 |
| • Community Youth Services | Young Adult shelter | \$82,500 |
| • Catholic Community Services | Drexel House Shelter | \$42,785 |

Tom gave an overview of the other projects that applied for CHG funds, including general information about scoring and project activities. The Technical Team made recommendations to fund the following from CHG:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| • Family Support Center | Homeless Prevention | \$107,000 |
| • Family Support Center | Pear Blossom Staff | \$80,140 |
| • Safeplace | Operations Emergency Shelter | \$39,775 |
| • Safeplace | Supportive Housing | \$65,000 |
| • Panza | Quixote Village | \$15,000 |

Motion to approve the recommendations for Cold and Hazardous weather and other services as well as Consolidated Homeless Grant as presented. Second. All approved.

Discussion follows regarding upcoming costs for current programs and projects in relation to upcoming new projects. Over the last 1.5 years the County has had ESG and EHG funds that have supplemented the Homeless Services system, and expanded services that have resulted in increased costs for shelter and outreach. These funds are ending soon and will leave an additional funding gap in the system. There will be additional 1277 funds coming however there is high demand for those funds. Tom gave some information on upcoming State funds and making sure their projects align with additional state funds to ensure they are eligible.

Agenda Item 4: RHC and HAT Retreat Update

Darian gave an update, the first day of the retreat was last Friday and went well. Focus was the foundation of the RHC, potential collaboration with the HAT and the Home fund, County data. The second day is this coming Friday at Olympia City Hall. Affordable Housing Team of the HAT expressed

concern that “brick and mortar” developers were not adequately represented at the Retreat, Jacinda will bring comments from the AHT for the retreat this Friday.

Agenda Item 5: Good of the Order

Olympia Homeless Outreach team met with the DOT, DOT is moving forward with clearing some areas required by Governor’s Office: City Center, Wheeler, Sleater-Kinney, Pacific Avenue, Lilly. Commerce is taking the lead on housing the residents in the encampments, but they do not have details. They do not have exact timing information yet but are working with Commerce to get more details so jurisdictions can be prepared. Question about what messaging will go out to the community about this? They do not have clear talking points yet, still getting information about details from the State.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:55 pm

Next Meeting: May 25th, 4:00 pm