

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday June 14th, 2023, Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Ryan Andrews, Jennifer Adams

Tumwater: Brad Medrud, Joan Cathey

Olympia: Dani Madrone, Rich Hoey, Darian Lightfoot, Jacinda Steltjes

Yelm: Brian Hess

Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Ramiro Chavez, Tom Webster, Cody Anderson

Meeting began at 4:05 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved, motion and second

Agenda Item 2: Minutes from May 24th meeting, motion and second, approved.

Agenda Item 3 Homeless Services Funding Decisions

Tom started with a presentation of the one-year funding amounts available to award. This includes \$3,649,814 for Housing and Essential Needs (HEN), \$207,653 for HEN Bridge which is a supplement to HEN funding, \$749,709 for Standard CHG, \$136,184 for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), \$3,099,713 in Emergency Housing Fund (EHF) which is new funding this year to help backfill COVID era funding that has ended, \$323,261 in supplemental funding to help back fill document recording fee gaps, and finally \$1,350,000 in each 2163 and Local Home Funds.

Next, Tom presented the group with the funding recommendations put forth by the Homeless Services Advisory Board (HSAB). To start, there was \$250,000 set-aside for Coordinated Entry. However, the requests totaled \$350,000 with minimums being \$326,000. The \$326,000 was a required amount for the applicant to qualify for a federal grant. The HSAB recommended \$350,000 for Coordinated Entry. \$250,000 of that would come from 2163 funding and \$100,000 come from HEN.

Cold and Hazardous weather had a set aside of \$250,000. The HSAB recommended to fully fund 3 agencies at \$265,800. Community Youth Services was not funded and instead their year-round shelter will receive higher funding to make up the difference. This way they aren't limited to specific weather conditions. Housing Basic Needs had a set aside of \$200,000. Again, the HSAB is recommending over funding this group of applicants to get as close to their full ask as possible. The exception being Evergreen Treatment Center. Their minimum ask was \$150,000 and with only \$200,000 set aside the HSAB determined there were not sufficient funds to fund this program. Dani asked if this feedback will be given to Evergreen Treatment Center once this process is done? Tom said yes. Rebuilding Together would be awarded \$28,000, which is in line with what they received in past years and SideWalk would be funded at \$40,000 as a new program this year. Total funding for Housing and Basic Needs came to \$270,963. Dani asked Tom to clarify that whatever the overage amount on these set asides are would come out of competitive funding. Tom confirmed this is correct.

Competitive Awards were grouped by activity. To start, Catholic Community Service's Permanent Supportive Housing application was fully funded at \$208,315. The next group was Services and Activities

and for this group of activities the HSAB prioritized housing related services. All were funded at least their minimum ask with the exception of Low-Income Housing Institute's (LIHI) Unity Commons application and Olympia Mutual Aid Partner's (OlyMAP) New Hope/Nickerson application. The LIHI application was seen as duplicate funding since Interfaith Works is being funded to do the same activities and because OlyMAP's New Hope/Nickerson project would be new this year, the group felt they would rather prioritize those funds towards preexisting housing programs. Next was Rapid Re-housing programs which the advisory board funded as close to all applicant's full ask as possible. They did the same for shelter programs, nearly fully funding all applicants. An additional \$62,000 was added to Community Youth Service's shelter application to make up for not being funded under cold and hazardous weather.

Brian asked where the Cold and Hazardous weather funds are being distributed throughout the county. Tom explained that it depends on the program. The shelters are located in the Olympia area but the Shelter in Place program is able to reach out to rural areas since they are a "place" based program.

Additionally, of the \$60,000 set aside for DEI training, only 5 applicants requested to utilize that funding spending only \$22,500. The remainder of those funds will be held in case any agencies request to utilize it.

Dani moved to approve the HSAB funding recommendations, Carolyn seconded, unanimously approved.

Tom let everyone know these will go to the BoCC Tuesday June 20th for final approval, and contracts that need to start July 1st can begin incurring costs at that time even if contracts aren't fully executed.

Agenda Item 4: Good of the Order

Dani shared that Carly Colgan reached out to Olympia for their feedback on how Commerce's process for their Home Ownership Capital Programs and Investment Strategies would impact Thurston County. She requested that this be a conversation the RHC had at their next meeting. That feedback is due at the end of June. Tom mentioned the tech team discussed this before today's meeting and are working on putting together a report to bring to the June 28th meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:43pm

Next Meeting: June 28th, 4:00 pm