



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of May 16, 2009**

DATE: May 16, 2009

SUBJECT: Homelessness Prevention and Community Services Block Grant funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the County's Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan to include the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program and Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funded programs.
2. Authorize the County Manager to submit the approved Substantial Amendment and required certifications to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
3. Appropriate \$728,367 in HUD funds (101.374993) in FY 2010 to the Department of Human Services (DHS) (101.51108).
4. Appropriate up to \$370,000 in CSBG funds (101.371935) in FY 2010 to the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD) (101.72000).
5. Allocate \$246,451 in HUD funds to three homeless service providers:
 - a. \$123,043 to Arlington Street People's Network (A-SPAN) for case management services for individuals.
 - b. \$61,704 to the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH) for case management services for families.
 - c. \$61,704 to Doorways for case management services for families.
6. Allocate \$300,000 CSBG funds to three homeless service providers and DHS:
 - d. \$65,000 to A-SPAN for housing location and placement services.
 - e. \$15,000 to AACH for case management services for families.
 - f. \$15,000 to Doorways for case management services for families.
 - g. \$205,000 to DHS for employment training and child care support services.
7. Authorize the County Manager to award specified grants to nonprofit community Partners and sign grant agreements when approved as to form by the County Attorney.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Cynthia Stevens and Anita Friedman, DHS Economic Independence Division
Jane Eboch and Ken Aughenbaugh, CPHD Housing Division

ISSUES: HUD requires a community process and a Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan for use of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds. An amended plan approved by the County Board must be submitted to HUD by May 18, 2009. This is a request to amend the Consolidated Plan and proceed with proposed activities.

SUMMARY: ARRA of 2009 authorized \$1.5 billion in HUD Homeless Prevention Funds. Arlington County will receive \$728,367. As a local government Community Action Agency, Arlington will also receive up to \$370,000 in CSBG stimulus funds. Under the auspices of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, DHS and CPHD conducted a participatory community planning process. Community stakeholders, nonprofit partners and the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness Implementation Task Force were engaged to prioritize use of the federal stimulus funds. The proposed Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program is the result of this community process.

BACKGROUND:

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

Arlington County will receive \$728,367 in HUD Homeless Prevention Funds for the period of September 30, 2009 through September 30, 2012. To be eligible to receive these funds, households must earn 50 percent or less of the area median income. The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program will focus on both prevention and rapid re-housing. The program will assist households who would otherwise become homeless or rapidly re-house homeless persons as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Assistance will focus on housing stabilization, linking households to community resources and mainstream benefits, and helping them develop a housing stability plan. Households most likely to achieve stable housing after the limited-term program ends will receive priority.

The HUD Homeless Prevention fund regulations include four main categories of eligible activities:

- **Financial assistance** including short or medium term tenant based rental assistance, security deposits and utility deposits and payments.
- **Housing relocation and stabilization** services including case management to meet the housing needs of program participants.
- **Data collection and evaluation.** Grantees and sub-grantees must use the Homeless Management Information System for data collection and reporting.
- **Administrative costs.** HUD permits up to 5 percent reimbursement for administrative costs.

The County is required to submit a Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2009 Action Plan that includes the Homeless Prevention and Re-Housing Program (see attached).

Allocation of HUD Homeless Prevention Funds

Allocation of funds is illustrated in the following table:

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program Estimated Budget Summary			
	Homelessness Prevention	Rapid Re-housing	Total Amount Budgeted
Financial Assistance	\$260,417	\$173,609	\$434,026
Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services	\$140,222	\$ 93,483	\$233,705
Subtotal (add previous two rows)	\$400,639	\$267,092	\$667,731
Data Collection and Evaluation			\$ 24,218
Administration (up to 5% of allocation)			\$ 36,418
Total HPRP Amount Budgeted			\$728,367

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program Description

DHS will administer the \$434,026 in financial assistance funds. Up to 50 households will be served. Financial assistance includes rent subsidies for up to eighteen months, security deposits, utility deposits and payments, moving costs and emergency lodging. Referrals for the program will come from non-profit service providers and local landlords; landlords will be informed of the new program through outreach and education efforts.

Case managers will perform initial client assessments to determine eligibility and level of need. Qualified inspection staff will conduct required housing inspections before payment is made. DHS will issue checks once the financial benefit has been determined. A-SPAN, AACH, and Doorways will receive \$233,705 for housing relocation and stabilization services. Nonprofit providers will provide individualized interventions and services to maintain housing stability. A-SPAN will be the lead agency providing housing locator services to clients via a CSBG-funded housing locator.

Community Services Block Grant Funds

CPHD will apply up to \$370,000 in CSBG funds during the period of July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 to support families and individuals most impacted by the economic recession. Planned activities include employment skills training for adults, child care support services, employment counseling and training for youth, case management, and housing locator and placement services. In keeping with the purpose of the federal stimulus funds, participating agencies are encouraged to support employment-related services, activities that create and sustain economic growth, and provision of assistance to those most impacted by the economic recession.

Employment services will be made available to eligible adults and youth who are residents of the City of Falls Church. The federal Community Services Block Grant Act and the state Community Action Act provide for localities not currently being served by community action agencies to be served through the expansion of existing community action agencies. Expansion of Arlington's Community Action Agency service area into the City of Falls Church will increase resources available to both jurisdictions. Income eligibility limits for CSBG funded services have been raised to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Under the regular (non-stimulus) CSBG program, allocation of funds is part of Arlington's Consolidated Plan, which combines federal grants and local funds and is guided by Consolidated Plan priorities. Because the time frame for development of an application for CSBG stimulus funds was short, the standard solicitation of proposals could not take place. Instead, CPHD staff partnered with DHS in the participatory community process carried out under the auspices of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness Implementation Task Force. CSBG funds will augment and support the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program.

Community Services Block Program Description

CPHD will administer the up to \$370,000 in CSBG stimulus funds in collaboration with DHS. The recommended allocation of CSBG funds complements the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program developed to prevent homelessness and quickly re-house individuals and families. The CSBG funds are available for 15 months from July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 and will support the following program components:

- A-SPAN will provide housing location and placement services.
- DHS's Arlington Employment Center will provide specialized skills training, job counseling and placement for adult clients. CSBG funds will subsidize child care and/or transportation support services while adults are being trained. The Employment Center will also use CSBG funds to conduct a year round, after school workforce readiness program for at-risk youth. The youth program will include both employment counseling and skills training.
- Doorways and AACH will conduct case management services for affected households.

Planning Process

HUD requires a community process for use of ARRA funds. Three participatory community planning sessions were held in March and April with County staff and community stakeholders, including non-profit service providers, housing providers, housing advocates and members of the faith community. All participating stakeholders are members of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness Implementation Task Force. Program priorities and parameters were identified and defined through consensus-based discussions, which form the basis for the Homeless Prevention and Re-Housing Program. As required by HUD's community process mandate, funding recommendations have been reviewed by the 10 Year Plan Implementation Task Force Executive Council (May 4, 2009), Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (May 6, 2009) and the Housing Commission (May 7, 2009). Their recommendations will be conveyed to the County Board.

Allocation of HUD Homeless Prevention and CSBG ARRA Funds:

Task	Agency	HUD Homeless Prevention Over 2 Years	CSBG 1 Year	Total
Financial Assistance Benefits	DHS	\$457,698 *		\$457,698
Data Collection and Evaluation	DHS	\$24,218		\$24,218
Case Management for singles & Housing Locator	ASPAN	\$123,043*	\$65,000	\$188,043
Case Management for families	AACH	\$61,704*	\$15,000	\$76,704
Case Management for families	Doorways	\$61,704*	\$15,000	\$76,704
Employment Skills Training for Adults	DHS		Up to \$125,000	\$125,000
Youth Workforce Readiness	DHS		Up to \$120,000	\$120,000
Child Care & Transportation Support Subsidies	DHS		\$30,000	\$30,000
Total		\$728,367	Up to \$370,000	\$1,098,367

*Includes 5% for administrative costs.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. All activities are 100 percent funded by ARRA stimulus funds. There is no match requirement and no impact on net tax support.