



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of October 24, 2009**

DATE: October 13, 2009

SUBJECT: Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Grant

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Appropriate \$363,631 in Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development funds (364900) to the Department of Human Services (51108) for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid-Re-Housing Program.
2. Allocate \$93,907 in Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development funds to Northern Virginia Family Services for case management and outreach services.
3. Authorize the County Manager or his designee to award \$93,907 to Northern Virginia Family Services and sign the grant agreement when approved as to form by the County Attorney.

ISSUES: This is a request to accept grant funds. No issues have been identified

SUMMARY: The Department of Human Services (DHS) was awarded \$363,631 in grant funds through a competitive process. Arlington County was one of 22 localities selected in a state-wide competition. The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) focuses on both prevention and rapid re-housing. The funds will be used to provide financial assistance to approximately 50 households and case management and outreach services to approximately 89 households. The grant funds cover a two year period and will be expended based on need. Any HPRP funds not used in FY2010 will be carried over into FY2011.

BACKGROUND: The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) of 2009 authorized \$1.5 billion in HPRP funds for communities to provide financial assistance and housing stabilization services. The intent is to either prevent households from becoming homeless or assist those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. Arlington County has already appropriated \$728,367 in formula-based U.S. Housing and Urban Development funds for the HPRP program. Arlington County was awarded an additional \$363,631 in competitive funds by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

County Manager: RCMMA

County Attorney: SAM

Staff: Cynthia Stevens, Housing Bureau Chief, DHS

HPRP funds can be used for four main categories of eligible activities:

- **Financial assistance** including short or medium term tenant based rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits and payments.
- **Housing stabilization** services including outreach and case management to meet the housing needs of program participants.
- **Data collection and evaluation** for use of the Homeless Management Information System for data collection and reporting.
- **Administrative Costs.** DHCD permits up to 2 percent reimbursement for administrative costs.

Allocation of DHCD Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Funds

	Two-year Program Budget		Total
	Homeless prevention	Rapid Re-housing	
Financial Assistance	150,073	100,048	250,121
Stabilization Services	54,544	36,363	90,907
Subtotal	204,617	136,411	341,028
Data Collection & Evaluation	\$8,855	\$7,748	\$16,603
Administration	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000*
Total HPRP Award			\$363,631

*No VA Family Services and the County will each receive \$3,000 for administrative expenses.

Program Description

DHS will administer \$250,121 in financial assistance funds. Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) will certify participant eligibility and provide case management services to households who receive financial assistance. NVFS will also provide households with financial literacy, budgeting, and credit repair training. Services are intended to help households achieve housing stability upon termination of financial assistance. The program will operate in conjunction with the HPRP program funded with \$728,367 in formula-based federal stimulus funds.

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