

**PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL
AMENDMENT FOR THE
HOMELESS PREVENTION
AND RAPID RE-HOUSING
PROGRAM (HPRP)**

**CITY OF MILWAUKEE,
WISCONSIN**

**Submitted to the
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
By the
Community Development Grants Administration
City Hall – 200 East Wells Street; Room 606
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Steven L. Mahan, Director**

Funds Provided by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

**CITY OF MILWAUKEE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

**Proposed Substantial Amendment to the City's 2008 Action Plan
for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program(HPRP)**



The City of Milwaukee is inviting citizen comments on the **Proposed Substantial Amendment to the City's 2008 Action Plan for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program(HPRP).**

The City of Milwaukee expects to receive \$6,912,159 from the Federal government as a result of the Homeless Prevention Fund of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This legislation was passed in part to provide assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. The proposed amendment to the City's 2008 Action Plan details the City's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the use of the funds.

The proposed amendment will be available to the public beginning Friday, April 24, 2009 and can be picked up at the CDGA office located in Room 606, City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street. In addition, it can also be accessed on the website at www.city.Milwaukee.gov/CommunityDevelopment310.htm.

Comments on the Plan must be submitted in writing no later than May 8, 2009 to: Mr. Steven L. Mahan, Director, Community Development Grants Administration; City Hall – 200 East Wells Street, Room 606, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

**Substantial Amendment to the City's Consolidated Plan 2008 Action
Plan for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid
Re-Housing Program (HPRP)**

- 1. Briefly describe the process(es) indicated in question 1 above (limit 250 words).**

Response: This plan for the utilization of Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program funds represents the City of Milwaukee's partnership with the Milwaukee Continuum of Care, the entity charged with the coordination of HUD Supportive Housing Program funding. With 85 organizational members, the Milwaukee Continuum of Care (COC) is representative of the full spectrum of homeless services providers. Moreover, the COC has the planning and accountability structure necessary to insure that HPRP funds have maximum impact on the complex issues of homelessness for youth, single adults with disabilities, and families experiencing repeated episodes of homelessness. To develop the plan, COC leadership convened five discussion groups: family homeless services providers, homeless youth-serving agencies, homeless adult service providers (including veterans), legal services organizations representing low-income clients, and leaders of the four work groups developing Milwaukee's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. In all, representatives of 15 organizations met to discuss utilization trends, review best practices, and identify programming priorities for the HPRP funding. The following organizations jointly developed the proposed plan: Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, Community Advocates, Salvation Army, Hope House of Milwaukee, Social Development Commission, Cathedral Center, Walker's Point Youth and Family Center, Pathfinders of Milwaukee, St. Aemilian-Lakeside, Vets Place Central, Guest House of Milwaukee, Health Care for the Homeless, My Home/Your Home, Legal Action of Wisconsin, and Legal Aid Society.

- 2. Briefly describe the process the grantee plans to use, once HUD signs the grant agreement, to allocate funds available to subgrantees by September 30, 2009, as required by the HPRP Notice (limit 250 words).**

Response: The City's plan is to adopt the proposal developed by the Milwaukee Continuum of Care organizations and to allocate funds based on the subgrantees identified in the Continuum's plan. Significant planning and preparatory work has been completed through the Continuum of Care in preparation for the receipt of HPRP funds; moreover, the HPRP plan builds upon the extensive planning pursuant to Milwaukee's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Agencies that will be responsible for the implementation of HPRP have been directly involved in the development of the plan and have the capacity to begin activities within thirty (30) days of notification of plan approval.

- 3. Describe the grantee's plan for ensuring the effective and timely use of HPRP grant funds on eligible activities, as outlined in the HPRP Notice. Include a description of how the grantee plans to oversee and monitor the administration and use of its own HPRP funds, as well as those used by its subgrantees (limit 500 words).**

Response: The Milwaukee HPRP Plan includes seven coordinated components: 1) Family Rapid Re-Housing; 2) Rapid Re-Housing for Youth Ages 18-25; Rapid Re-Housing for Single Adults; 4) Prevention of Homelessness Related to Foreclosure of Rental Units; 5) Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction; 6) Landlord/Tenant Mediation; and 7) Direct Assistance for Eviction Prevention with Case Management. This represents the total allocation of HPRP funding to the City of Milwaukee except for funds reserved for administration. Each of the organizations incorporated into the proposed HPRP plan is an existing CDBG grantee and, as such, has the required data collection, program reporting, and fiscal accountability systems already established and operating.

Each of the HPRP components has a detailed program plan including target population, goals and objectives, and outcomes. The grantee will require each subgrantee to conform with standard proposal and contract requirements prior to allocation.

The HPRP will be subject to the same high level of program monitoring and compliance assurance used in all of the City's Community Block Grant programs including CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA, and ADDI. This process, described in the City's Consolidated plan, includes detailed grantee reporting requirements to document activities and accomplishments, submission of monthly financial and programmatic reports, staff review of program progress to identify issues and insure compliance, site visits augmented by frequent telephone and electronic contact with subgrantees to track progress, identify problems, and provide technical assistance as needed. In addition, funded programs will undergo annual risk assessments and in-house desk audits in addition to the City Comptroller's Office annual financial audits and expenditure monitoring.

D. Collaboration

- 1. Briefly describe how the grantee plans to collaborate with the local agencies that can serve similar target populations, which received funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 from other Federal agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Labor (limit 250 words).**

Response: The City has established relationships with the Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services, Workforce Investment Board, local law enforcement, and other entities that will receive funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Family Rapid Re-Housing Component will coordinate efforts with the Milwaukee Public Schools Homeless Services Program to insure that children avoid disruptions in their school attendance/assignment. The Single Adult Rapid Re-Housing Component will coordinate with the resources of Milwaukee County, specifically the Milwaukee County Housing Division for housing assistance and the Behavioral Health Division for mental health and addiction treatment services. Providers will continue ef-

forts to access the services of the Workforce Investment Board and other entities funded to provide employment and training support.

- 2. Briefly describe how the grantee plans to collaborate with appropriate Continuum(s) of Care and mainstream resources regarding HPRP activities (limit 250 words).**

Response: The HPRP Plan was developed in collaboration with the Milwaukee Continuum of Care. The COC represents the City and County of Milwaukee, West Allis, and Wauwatosa. Steve Falek, Associate Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, serves as co-chair of the Continuum; and Birdie Boyd from the Community Development Grants Administration is a Continuum of Care member. The Continuum of Care tracks the utilization of mainstream benefits through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and reports annually to HUD on the extent to which participants in HUD-funded supportive housing programs successfully access mainstream benefits such as Medicaid, Badger-Care, Food Stamps, W-2/TANF, SSI/SSDI, and other related resources. A key component of the Single Adult Rapid Re-Housing Component of the HPRP is the utilization of the SOAR model to increase the number of approved SSI applications for single adults with mental illness. In this endeavor, HPRP agencies involved with SOAR will work closely with the Social Security Administration as well as the Behavioral Health Division and other health care providers.

- 3. Briefly describe how HPRP grant funds for financial assistance and housing relocation/stabilization services will be used in a manner that is consistent with the grantee's Consolidated Plan (limit 250 words).**

Response: The activities in the HPRP are consistent with the Housing First approach incorporated into the Homeless Services component of the Consolidated Plan. It should be noted that consistent with the regulations, all activities will provide some type of assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

Rapid Re-Housing for Families is a partnership project between Community Advocates, Inc. as the lead agency, and Cathedral Center, Social Development Commission-Family Support Center, Hope House of Milwaukee, Salvation Army and the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee will provide permanent housing with case management services to 150 homeless families over the three-year project period. Families will receive short-term housing assistance for up to 18 months with intensive case management services to help them stabilize and gain the skills necessary to maintain housing and increase income. At the end of the service period, families will be provided with a rent-subsidized housing unit through the Housing Authority.

Rapid Re-Housing for Single Adults is a partnership of Guest House of Milwaukee, center for Veterans Issues, Community Advocates and Health Care for the

Homeless with support from the Milwaukee County Housing Division. The project will assist 180 single homeless adults over the 3-year period to find permanent housing, access mainstream resources, and, depending on their disability status, to pursue employment or SSI benefits. Participants will be housed in efficiency apartments with utilities included and receive case management directed toward assisting each individual secure reliable employment and/or income in order to sustain permanent housing.

The Rapid Re-Housing for Youth Ages 18-25 Project is a partnership between Pathfinders, St Aemilian-Lakeside, and Walker's Point Youth and Family Center. The service model combines medium term rental assistance to assist 120 youth over 3 years to obtain and maintain safe and suitable housing with intensive case management to support educational advancement, job development and retention, independent living skills, and healthy emotional growth. The project targets youth and young adults ages 18 to 25 with a special emphasis gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, former foster care youth and youth aging out of foster care, and other single and parenting young adults.

The Legal Services component will provide eviction prevention assistance to low-income renters who are at imminent risk of homelessness due to nonpayment of rent, foreclosure, or other circumstance. Legal Action of Wisconsin and the Legal Aid Society will provide legal services to individuals referred by partnering HPRP organizations as well as eligible individuals who directly access their services. A minimum of 300 participants will receive legal services over the 3-year project period.

Prevention of Homelessness Related to Foreclosure of Rental Units will provide assistance to Section 8 households which are subject to five-day eviction orders as a result of foreclosure on the unit in which they are residing. This program component will provide assistance to cover moving costs and security deposits to relocate affected tenants into new units. A total of 250 families will be served over the project period.

Landlord/Tenant Mediation Services will be provided by Community Advocates and will include a range of housing services including landlord/tenant dispute resolution, case management, and the provision of short-term direct rental assistance. A minimum of 450 participants will receive mediation services over three years.

Direct Assistance for Eviction Prevention will be coupled with case management provided through the Community Advocates Landlord/Tenant Mediation Services or Center for Veterans Issues and will provide short-term rent assistance (with case management) to 300 participants over three years.

E. Estimated Budget Summary

HUD requires the grantee to complete the following table so that participants in the citizen participation process may see the grantee’s preliminary estimated amounts for various HPRP activities. Enter the estimated budget amounts for each activity in the appropriate column and row. The grantee will be required to report actual amounts in subsequent reporting.

HPRP Estimated Budget Summary			
	Homelessness Prevention	Rapid Re-housing	Total Amount Budgeted
Financial Assistance ¹	\$1,336,900	\$2,123,600	\$3,460,500
Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services ²	\$1,428,100	\$1,677,951	\$3,106,051
Subtotal (add previous two rows)	\$2,765,000	\$3,801,551	\$6,566,551
Data Collection and Evaluation ³			\$
Administration (up to 5% of allocation)			\$345,608
Total HPRP Amount Budgeted⁴			\$6,912,159

¹Financial assistance includes the following activities as detailed in the HPRP Notice: short-term rental assistance, medium-term rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and motel or hotel vouchers.

²Housing relocation and stabilization services include the following activities as detailed in the HPRP Notice: case management, outreach, housing search and placement, legal services, mediation, and credit repair.

³Data collection and evaluation includes costs associated with operating HUD-approved homeless management information systems for purposes of collecting unduplicated counts of homeless persons and analyzing patterns of use of HPRP funds.

⁴This amount must match the amount entered in the cell on the table in Section A titled “Amount Grantee is Requesting.”

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