



Human Services Department Program Updates

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**Mayor Michael McGinn
Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith**

Contents

- 1. Prioritization Policy for Homeless Families** (response to Statement of Legislative Intent 104-1-A-1)
- 2. Communities Supporting Safe & Stable Housing Homeless Services Funding Awards**
- 3. Allocation of \$200,000 for Adult/Youth Day Services**
- 4. Questions**

Prioritization Policy for Homeless Families

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 104-1-A-1

Background

- Family Housing Connection (FHC) is the coordinated entry and assessment system for homeless families in King County, launched in April 2012.
- FHC matches a family's needs with appropriate resources such as emergency vouchers, emergency shelter, transitional housing or rapid re-housing.
- 115+ emergency crisis units for families (shelter, motel vouchers, etc.) exist within FHC with an average of 12 openings per month; **need for units is greater than number of openings.**
- 40+ emergency crisis units exist outside FHC system in DV shelters, and non-publicly funded faith-based programs. FHC refers people to some of these programs.

Prioritization Policy for Homeless Families

Background (continued)

- Currently, there are no “priority” categories within FHC process. Referrals are made using the placement roster (based on date/time of first call to Community Information Line/2-1-1) and eligibility requirements of available programs.
- Human Services Department (HSD) is working with King County Family Homelessness Initiative (FHI) and Family Housing Connection (FHC) on a prioritization policy for placing homeless families into housing that will be implemented by FHC.
- City funding for homeless families will be aligned with this prioritization policy with the goal of decreasing the number of families who are unsheltered and “literally homeless” – those staying in a place not meant for human habitation such as a car or abandoned building.

Prioritization Policy for Homeless Families

Coordinated Entry Proposal

- Family Homelessness Initiative (FHI) seeks to create a more streamlined accessible system to:
 - Prevent families in crisis from becoming homeless
 - Rapidly house those who experience homelessness and
 - Link families to appropriate services
- FHI created Coordinated Entry and Assessment Subcommittee in November, 2012 to explore prioritizing emergency crisis units for homeless families; subcommittee includes providers, United Way, HSD and King County.
- **Subcommittee Recommendation:** Revise FHC policies to prioritize “literally homeless” families for emergency units. Families who are “literally homeless” live in places unfit for habitation such as cars, parks, abandoned buildings.

Prioritization Policy for Homeless Families

Next Steps

- HSD is working with FHI and FHC to implement prioritization policy.
- HSD will align City funds dedicated to help homeless families to more effectively match family's needs with appropriate resources.
- FHC will develop an implementation plan.
- The policy is expected to be implemented as soon as February 2013.
- Quarterly updates will be provided to City Council on policy implementation. HSD will provide a formal report by July 1, 2013.

Homeless Services Funding Awards

Background

- Human Services Department released the Communities Supporting Safe & Stable Housing Investment Plan in May, 2012 to improve the City's ability to prevent and end homelessness while maintaining commitment to providing shelter and essential services.
- Plan established the following **investment principles**:
 - Provide culturally relevant and linguistically competent services
 - Maintain high-quality standards for facilities and programs
 - Commit to neighborhood health and safety standards
 - Coordinate and integrate services with community networks and mainstream service systems
 - Collect and submit high-quality data

Homeless Services Funding Awards

Background (continued)

- In order to implement these principles, HSD developed two funding processes:
 - **Request for Investment (RFI)** for agencies providing day center, and placement, stabilization and support services
 - **Letter of Intent (LOI)** process for agencies that received 2012 funding to provide shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing

Homeless Services Funding Awards

Funding Process

- Rigorous, transparent process based on investment principles, quality of services and accountability.
- **Rating Panels:** Large and diverse, including staff from King County, City departments, funders, professional associations, nonprofits, advisory councils.
- **Rating Process:** Proposals rated according to rating criteria published in RFI and LOI guidelines; panels convened to render a final decision.

Schedule

- RFIs released on June 25, 2012; LOI released on August 8, 2012
- RFI proposal due on August 6, 2012; LOI proposals due on Aug. 20, 2012
- Funding recommendations to HSD Director by November 2012
- Award announcements made on January 31, 2013

Homeless Services Funding Awards

Funding Awards

- Many organizations that previously received HSD funding will continue to receive contracts under RFI/LOI process.
- HSD able to fund agencies for homeless services for first time including:
 - Pike Market Senior Center **servicing seniors**
 - Neighborhood House **servicing immigrants and refugees**
 - Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets **servicing homeless youth**
 - Seattle Indian Center, **servicing Native Americans**
- Total awards for 2013 is \$14.3 million.
 - Placement/stabilization and support services: \$1.1 million
 - Day services: \$3.3 million
 - Shelter/transitional housing/permanent supportive housing: \$9.9 million

\$200,000 for Youth/Adult Day Services

Additional Funding for Day Services

- City Council added \$200,000 for day services to HSD's budget in late November 2012 as part of 2013 budget process.
- **Green Sheet 101-2-A-2:** "fund additional day center services to assist in the implementation of the Center City Initiative (CCI)."

Distribution

- HSD expedited the allocation of these funds and they will be distributed equally among day centers in the downtown core and to one youth center. Funds will be included in 2013 contracts that begin April 2013.
- Eight of the nine existing day centers funded through the recent RFI are located downtown and will receive this funding.
- An additional \$204,600 is available for day services in 2014.

\$200,000 for Youth/Adult Day Services

Anticipated Outcomes

- New contracts will include additional outcome expectations in alignment with Department priority strategies aimed at homelessness prevention and intervention to increase safety and access to housing.
- It is expected that day center providers will use this additional allocation to work collaboratively with other day center and outreach programs to increase the continuity of services provided during the day and night to increase engagement opportunities for clients who may be housing or service resistant.
- Day center providers will be asked to provide information and referral activities and record those and the outcomes of those referrals in Safe Harbors HMIS.

\$200,000 for Youth/Adult Day Services

Anticipated Outcomes (cont.)

- As part of this effort, the CCI outreach program will be deeply connected to the efforts of the day centers and their efforts to create additional engagement opportunities.
- HSD will use internal systems to track the funds and how they are used to address the intent of the Green Sheet.
- Linkages to employment will be explored as well, however not likely included in contract language until 2014.
- Lessons learned from the implementation of services in 2013 will be incorporated in the 2014 contracts and may result in different allocation and/or scope of work.

Questions and Comments

