

Out-Wayne County Homeless Coalition Ranking Committee Meeting

August 29, 2017 Meeting Notes

1:30-4:00 at 2121 Biddle Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192

Notes taken by Janet Ray and Mitch Blum-Alexander of AppelWorks

In Attendance: Joan Brophy and Anne Beatty of Wayne Metro, Ilene Hogan of First Step, Tania James and Sean de Four of Samaritas, Mitch Blum-Alexander and Janet Ray of AppelWorks

The committee reviewed the funding categories which were adjusted by HUD:

PPRN amount was decreased from \$9,498,674 to \$6,291,040

Bonus decreased from \$569,921 to \$377,462

Planning Grant decreased from \$284,960 to \$188,371 from previous year of \$75,000

Observations/Questions/General Discussion

One committee member asked why was an agency's audit and financials requested?

Answer: To flag if the agency had significant issues affecting their financial stability, such as significant losses and warnings by the auditor. . If financials are in poor shape, this can be an indicator of organizational soundness and ability to maintain adequate program performance. The financials did not affect the project scores.

Percentage of points earned was used to rank the renewal projects, not the raw numbers. The percentage is points earned divided by total eligible points. At times a project type legitimately cannot address all questions so the division would be based on the points earned divided by the total possible points.

As per the RFP guidelines, the HMIS and SSO renewal projects are at the top of the ranking because they are infrastructure projects.

Some projects have greater project description while others gave a sparse description. Next year in the RFP there should be more specifics as to what kind of information is being sought in the project description.

A new criterion in this year's RFP addresses the effectiveness of for how programs are serving those with the hardest needs - is percent of clients entering and exiting with income. The committee reviewed the projects to determine percent of clients with no income – approximately a third of clients entering the program across all CoC programs had no income.

New Projects are automatically tier 2 and ranked behind all renewals. First time renewals are ranked ahead of all other renewals save for infrastructure projects.

Ranking Ordering based on Criteria, Data from HMIS and committee discussion

A project comparison spreadsheet was shared with the group in the ranking order of project types and percentage earned.

Most reviewers found the self-score accurate. In three or four instances the reviewer modified the self-score.

Data provided by agency for First Step renewal application was from a database other than HMIS. This is allowed for agencies serving survivors of domestic violence. Scoring was based on total possible points for questions First Step was able to answer.

Successfully completing grant expenditures for all the projects were discussed. Two projects fell below threshold in RFP for grant expenditures. Wayne Metro Shelter Plus Care is on pace for expenditure as planned for this year. Improvements to Samaritas Supportive Services Renewal

Participants discussed data from HMIS and anecdotal experience of clients and their service and housing need coming through Coordinated Entry: There is more demand for Rapid Rehousing than for PSH. Recently there are 44 households that have needed RRH as compared to 7 needing PSH.

CoC Housed – 86 new families housed or approved for housing this year. Screening done for 129

Initially looking at the order solely by percent based on categories for ranking established in the RFP

All renewal projects meet the 65% thresholds for scoring

Committee considering the lower ranking projects of Samaritas and First Step that support the Family Shelter and serve survivors of domestic violence respectively and concerned that they would be at risk for not being renewed. First Step provides the only shelter and transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence in Wayne County. The Family Shelter operated by Samaritas provides the only emergency shelter of its kind in Wayne County. Also, the Committee expressed concern that placing the Wayne Metro Shelter Plus Care as the lowest ranked project for renewals, falling into Tier 2, would jeopardize an improving project with an existing base of PSH clients. The Samaritas program has almost half of clients entering with no income; First Step nearly 80%. The Wayne Metro Shelter Plus Care PSH project has 43% of clients entering with no income, second highest among all PSH projects.

The committee reviewed this section of the HUD NOFA (page 46, VII.A.2b):

b. Severity of Needs and Performance. Up to 4 points for the extent to which CoCs consider the severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants in their project ranking and selection process. Needs and vulnerabilities include: low or no income, current or past substance abuse, a history of victimization (e.g. domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse), criminal histories, and chronic homelessness. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that describe the specific needs and vulnerabilities the CoC considers, and exactly how the CoC takes them into account during its ranking and selection process.

As a result of the discussion, the Committee considered placing the Community Housing Network renewal project WCHLAP1 as the lowest ranking project for renewals and as a result placing the Wayne Metro Shelter Plus Care, First Step and Samaritas Supportive Services Renewal higher ranked.

Motion 1: Adopt the ranking as noted in the paragraph above. Motion made by Sean, second by Joan. All of committee present voted in favor.

New Projects Discussion

There is 1 CHN PH project and 1 RRS Wayne Metro project submitted as new projects. The Wayne Metro project is an expansion of the existing Wayne Metro Rapid Rehousing for Families. The CHN project is new and very similar to the CHN project approved last year. The Committee discussed that RRH is the greatest need for clients.

Motion 2: Based on HMIS data for demand, RRS will be prioritized over the PSH, and the Wayne Metro project will be ranked higher than the CHN project. Motion made by Ilene, second by Joan. All committee members present in support.

A representative of CHN had wanted to attend the meeting but was not able to do so and so the remaining Committee members called Jessica Mumma of CHN to explain the ranking recommendation.

Next Steps

The recommendations of the Ranking Meeting will be presented at the September 7th Membership Meeting for discussion and approval.