

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	September 16, 2024
Action Required:	Appropriation of DHCD VHSP Funds Approval for City Manager to execute Grant Agreement
Presenter:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Staff Contacts:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Title:	Resolution to appropriate funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development- Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Grant \$470,805 (2nd reading).

Background

The Office of Community Solutions, in coordination with the Blue Ridge Area Coalition for the Homeless (B.R.A.C.H.) applied for and received a grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The Virginia Housing Solutions Program award is \$470,805 and funds to be expended between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

Discussion

The City of Charlottesville has staff from the Office of Community Solutions and the Department of Human Services serving on the B.R.A.C.H. Board of Directors. The Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (V.H.S.P.) is an important resource in our community's effort to end homelessness. Included in the amount of \$470,805 in state general funds, of which \$120,286 is for State Rapid-Rehousing. The balance of the funds is split among the other eligible categories which provide service at various points along the local continuum of services:

1. Coordinated Assessment: The Haven serves as the physical front door to the homelessness system of care, using an evidence-based tool for determining priority access to available resources.
2. Emergency Low Barrier Shelter: P.A.C.E.M. provides low barrier shelter for adults using rotating local churches for support.
3. Rapid Re-housing & Housing Navigation: The Haven screens and administers rapid re-housing assistance and housing navigation to households experiencing homelessness.
4. Case Management: The Haven provides supportive services, including crisis intervention, case management and service referrals.
5. Targeted Prevention: The Haven administers the Targeted Prevention program which assists households who are 14 days or less to entering homelessness either locate housing or maintain their current housing.

6. Homeless Management Information System (H.M.I.S.): B.R.A.C.H. ensures that data is entered into the H.M.I.S. system, which is a well-populated database for individuals experiencing homelessness. H.M.I.S. collaboration provides real-time monitoring of the needs and progress of individuals and households facing homelessness. Collaborative use of H.M.I.S. among B.R.A.C.H. Continuum of Care Service Providers expedites communication and reduces the need to interface disparate documentation systems.
7. CoC Planning (Coalition Coordination): B.R.A.C.H. provides leadership and coordination for the required local homelessness continuum of care.
8. Administration: The City of Charlottesville, as the award recipient, is eligible for an administrative fee. Staff proposes that we pass these funds through to B.R.A.C.H. (as we have done in prior years) in recognition of staff time spent processing checks and managing this grant process.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This grant advances the City of Charlottesville's Strategic Outcome Areas of:

1. Housing: Provides temporary housing for individuals experiencing homelessness; provides Rapid Re-housing services to individuals so that they may quickly exit homelessness into permanent housing; and Targeted Prevention which assists individuals in either maintaining or securing permanent housing so that they do not become homeless.
2. Partnerships: This grant provides opportunities for the City to partner with B.R.A.C.H. in the administration of the VHSP grant, as well as requires collaboration between community partners to ensure individuals experiencing homelessness are evaluated, prioritized, and receive services to end their housing crisis as quickly as possible.

Community Engagement

This grant is a product of extensive engagement of the service provider community for people experiencing homelessness. This partnership is reflective of the governance model for B.R.A.C.H. and the priority requests submitted by the service providers.

Budgetary Impact

There is no budgetary impact for the City of Charlottesville, as this grant consists of state funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The match requirement is made through previously appropriated CAHF funds awarded to B.R.A.C.H.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the appropriation of the \$407,805 from DHCD to support VHSP.
Staff recommend the approval for the City Manager to execute the VHSP grant agreement.

Alternatives

Council may elect not to accept the funds and the community will not have the capacity to administer the following services to people experiencing homelessness: emergency low-barrier shelter, coordinated entry/ assessment, Rapid Re-housing, Targeted Prevention, Continuum of Care Coordination, and services for the grant.

Attachments

1. VHSP FY 25 Resolution
2. City of Charlottesville FY25 VHSP Grant Agreement