

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



Agenda Date:	December 16, 2024
Action Required:	Appropriation of \$389,318 from DHCD for HOPWA Program
Presenter:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Staff Contacts:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Title:	Resolution to appropriate funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) grant 24-HOPWA-303 in the amount of \$389,312 (2nd reading)

Background

The Office of Community Solutions in coordination with the Blue Ridge Area Coalition on Homelessness (BRACH), applied for and received a grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS/H.I.V. (H.O.P.W.A.) award is \$389,312 for July 1, 2023 – March 31, 2025.

Discussion

The City of Charlottesville has staff from Human Services and the Office of Community Solutions serving on the BRACH Board. H.O.P.W.A., is an important resource in our community's efforts to end homelessness. The grant provides services in four key areas in addition to Administration:

1. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (T.B.R.A.): The Thomas Jefferson Health District (T.J.H.D.) partners with The Haven to provide T.B.R.A. to eligible participants. The T.J.H.D. screens participants for eligibility and inspects the proposed property to ensure that it meets H.U.D. requirements. Upon successful screening, The Haven contacts the landlord to arrange monthly rent payment, similar to rapid re-housing.
2. Short-term Rental, Mortgage and Utility Assistance: T.J.H.D. screens eligible participants for short-term assistance including emergency utility payments to avoid shut off.
3. Supportive Services: T.J.H.D. provides supportive services including crisis intervention, case management and service referrals.
4. Homeless Management Information System(H.M.I.S.): The City of Charlottesville as the award recipient will ensure that H.M.I.S. data is complete through an agreement with B.R.A.C.H. to have the Executive Director ensure data quality. Our Continuum of Care (C.O.C.) has a well-populated database for individuals experiencing homelessness. HMIS collaboration provides real-time monitoring of the needs and progress of individuals and households facing homelessness. Collaborative use of H.M.I.S. among T.J.A.C.H. C.o.C. Service Providers expedites communication and reduces the need to interface disparate documentation systems.

5. Administration: The City of Charlottesville as the award recipient is eligible for an administrative fee up to seven (7) percent of the total award. Staff proposes that we pass these dollars through to T.J.H.D. & The Haven to support the supervision of assigned staff.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This grant advances the City of Charlottesville's 2023 City Council Strategic Plan Framework "to be a place where everyone thrives". More specifically, this grant advances the strategic outcome area, Housing, which indicates "Charlottesville defines access to liveable housing as a human right and works to ensure housing choices and mobility are provided for all who seek it through the implementation of the Affordable Housing Plan". The HOPWA funds provided by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development provides access to housing supports and services to assist individuals with HIV/AIDS with maintaining housing.

Community Engagement

This grant is the product of extensive engagement of the service provider community for persons experiencing homelessness. This partnership is reflective of the new governance model for B.R.A.C.H. and the priority requests of the Interfaith Movement Promoting Action by Congregations Together (IMPACT).

Budgetary Impact

This grant will be entirely State, and Federal pass-through funds. No local match is required. There is no budget impact for the City of Charlottesville. All funds will be distributed to sub-recipients for service provision.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval and appropriation of grant funds.

Alternatives

Council may elect to not accept the funds and the community will not have the capacity to administer the following services to persons experiencing a housing crisis while managing AIDS/H.I.V: short-term rental assistance, utility assistance, rapid rehousing, H.M.I.S., and administration.

Attachments

1. 24-HOPWA-303 Resolution