

Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness

Funding Review Committee

July 20, 2016

Present: Denise Price, Laurie Craft, Rebecca Rynbrandt, Karen Tjapkes (Chair), Cheryl Schuch, Lee Nelson Weber, Casey Gordon, Jeff Hudson, Tracie Coffman (ENTF Staff), Jim Talen (CoC Staff), Jessica Vail (CoC Staff)

- I. Welcome and Introductions/Conflict of Interest: Each member completed a Conflict of Interest form and disclosed any possible conflicts. The committee did not feel any potential conflicts arose to the level to call a vote.
- II. Review of Key Documents:
 - a. Data Chart: Jim explained the chart that summarized all the questions using APR and HMIS data on the applications. The committee was able to see answers from each application next to the others.
 - b. Findings Review: the committee members read over the HUD findings letters from Kent County
 - c. Threshold Definition: Committee members reviewed HUD information related to threshold requirements of HUD.
- III. Overview of HUS NOFA and Priorities: A summary of key NOFA elements was provided by staff including the HUD areas of priority.
- IV. Requirements for Funding: Projects must not total more than the Annual Renewal Demand of \$5,351,722. \$4,977,147 is available in Tier 1.
- V. Scoring and Ranking of Projects: Projects were first ordered by initial scoring. Committee members took other factors into consideration in the ranking—number of people housed, importance of project to the system (infrastructure especially), if the project follows best practices and recognized service standards. There was discussion regarding risks of projects that may be in more jeopardy if placed in Tier 2. Recognizing that the fewer projects in Tier 2, the better but that projects that do not require CoC Program funds for rental or leasing may still keep people housed if there was a loss of CoC Program funds, rather than those projects completely reliant on CoC Program funds for rental and leasing.
- VI. Next Steps: The group came to consensus in the ranking recommendations. Staff will inform project applicants of their status. The final ranking recommendation will not be made until new and bonus projects are received.

The committee has recommendations that technical assistance be offered to applicants regarding service standards and accounting of units reported to HUD. A cost analysis for projects is recommended as well, especially for rapid rehousing.

Future topics of note are looking at criminal records in screening and ensuring that Fair Housing standards are met as well as cultural competency and multi-lingual accessibility of projects.

Minutes Approved 8/3/2016