

HOMELESS

Homeless Needs

*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Identify actions taken to address needs of homeless persons.

Program Year 4 CAPER Homeless Needs response:

The CoC decided to devote 40% of its ESG funding to provide Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing services to individuals and families within our jurisdiction with a focus on the re-housing of those that are literally homeless. Four units of Permanent Supportive Housing units were created for chronically homeless veteran families. The CoC also voted to re-allocate one of their lower performing supportive services CoC grants into 6 more units of Permanent Housing in the upcoming year. The creation of street outreach teams just over a year ago has helped with the identification and engagement of those "literally homeless" that live on the streets. The street teams periodically go to camps and other outdoor locations that street homeless frequent in order to notify them of potential housing programs, healthcare services, and other needed services. The City of Rockford Human Services Department, a Community Action Agency, has been able to use some of its' CSBG funding to help 5 of the chronic, street homeless into permanent housing either in public housing settings or with private landlords.

Other CoC member agencies have also stepped up their street outreach. The local Path Program, Crusader Community Health, and the Veteran's Association all send staff out to places where the homeless population frequents. They make connections with the folks that they encounter, building a rapport with them, and working to engage the street homeless in services. They are then able to make the appropriate linkages. The CoC has also worked to build a stronger relationship with the local police department and the Park District Police who contact CoC members when they encounter situations with the homeless.

2. Identify actions to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

Program Year 4 CAPER Homeless Needs response:

Through the CoC programs, most clients gaining housing work with a case manager to ensure a smooth transition into permanent housing. Based on the needs of the client, case manager can connect clients with various services such as with accessing mainstream benefits, job services, or help applying for Social Security benefits. Some of the agencies provide different Life Skills services. For example, the Community Action Agency, assist clients by providing Financial Literacy classes to help clients budget and gain money management skills.

3. Identify new Federal resources obtained from Homeless SuperNOFA.

Program Year 4 CAPER Homeless Needs response:

The CoC received only one new grant in the year. Shelter Care Ministries received a 3 year grant for the creation of 4 Permanent Supportive Housing beds for chronically homeless veteran families. Total award of the grant was \$116,440.

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

1. Identify actions taken to prevent homelessness.

Program Year 4 CAPER Specific Housing Prevention Elements response:

One of the categories of ESG money was Homeless Prevention services which local either through rent payments for those at risk of eviction. One of the ESG sub-grantees, Prairie State Legal, used Prevention funds to provide legal assist to the homeless (or at-risk) population in order to keep them housed. They also provided bankruptcy help in order to help those with credit issues which were preventing them from getting housing (especially due to utility bills which hinder their entry to public housing).

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

1. Identify actions to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families (including significant subpopulations such as those living on the streets).

Program Year 4 CAPER ESG response:

ESG funds were used to fund one Domestic Violence shelter (Remedies), operations of another program that provides emergency and transitional housing to families (Shelter Care Ministries), and finally an organization that provide emergency and transitional housing to pregnant and parenting homeless youth up to age 24 (MELD).

2. Assessment of Relationship of ESG Funds to Goals and Objectives
 - a. Evaluate progress made in using ESG funds to address homeless and homeless prevention needs, goals, and specific objectives established in the Consolidated Plan.

Program Year 4 CAPER ESG response:

As previously mentioned, ESG funds in part are being used to fund rapid-rehousing of homeless families and individuals who are literally homeless. This helps meet the goals of reducing the number of homeless and decreasing the time that people spend homeless.

- b. Detail how ESG projects are related to implementation of comprehensive homeless planning strategy, including the number and types of individuals and persons in households served with ESG funds.

Program Year 4 CAPER ESG response:

ESG recipients are part of the local Continuum of Care which has a more comprehensive strategy to end homelessness. This plan looks at overall homeless numbers and ways to increase persons served and priorities certain sub-populations such as the veterans, chronic homeless, disabled, and homeless youth.

3. Matching Resources

- a. Provide specific sources and amounts of new funding used to meet match as required by 42 USC 11375(a)(1), including cash resources, grants, and staff salaries, as well as in-kind contributions such as the value of a building or lease, donated materials, or volunteer time.

Program Year 4 CAPER ESG response:

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Private | Trust Funds | \$ 35,000.00 |
| Private | Donations | \$ 113,238.00 |
| Total | | \$148,238.00 |

4. State Method of Distribution

- a. States must describe their method of distribution and how it rated and selected its local government agencies and private nonprofit organizations acting as subrecipients.

Program Year 4 CAPER ESG response:

N/A

5. Activity and Beneficiary Data

- a. Completion of attached Emergency Shelter Grant Program Performance Chart or other reports showing ESGP expenditures by type of activity. Also describe any problems in collecting, reporting, and evaluating the reliability of this information.

Program Year 4 CAPER ESG response:

See performance measures chart in the performance measures tab. To date we have had no problems collecting, reporting, or evaluating the reliability of this information.

- b. Homeless Discharge Coordination
 - i. As part of the government developing and implementing a homeless discharge coordination policy, ESG homeless prevention funds may be used to assist very-low income individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless after being released from publicly funded institutions such as health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or corrections institutions or programs.

Program Year 4 CAPER ESG response:

Because the ESG recipients are all part of the Continuum of Care, they use the same discharge plans as the CoC. There are discharge plans in place with for youth aging out of foster care, with Rosecrance the local mental health provider, the Community

Health Provider, and Winnebago County Probation. We have not yet been able to get agreements with the local hospitals or Department of Corrections but they are in the works.

- c. Explain how your government is instituting a homeless discharge coordination policy, and how ESG homeless prevention funds are being used in this effort.

Program Year 4 CAPER ESG response:

ESG funds are not being used in this effort.