

Attending: Nate Broman-Fulks, Rebecca Buzzard, Lucy Carlson, Nancy Coston, Caitlin Fenhagen, Kathleen Ferguson, Barbara Foushee, Sally Greene, Chinita Howard, Jackie Jenks, Megan Johnson, Corey Root, Beth Schehl, Isabel Shapiro, Diiv Sternman, Emila Sutton

Welcome & Updates

OCPEH updates:

- Continuing to add temporary and permanent staff
- Continuing twice weekly Homeless System COVID Coordination meetings
 - Applying [National Alliance to End Homelessness Framework](#) to Orange County

ESG-CV Round 1 Funding Review

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, authorized supplemental funding for the Emergency Solutions Grant, abbreviated ESG-CV. The State ESG Office issued a Request for Applications for Round 1 (of 4 total rounds) ESG-CV on June 22, 2020. Orange County, through the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH), is eligible to apply for up to \$341,633.

At the July 6 Leadership Team meeting, members elected to allocate the available funding with 75%, or \$256,225, going to Crisis Response activities including shelter and street outreach, and 25%, or \$85,408, going to Housing Stability activities including rapid re-housing. The Leadership Team also decided to participate in the statewide Back@Home rapid re-housing program that has those project applications reviewed at the state level.

Coordinator reviewed the role of the Project Review Committee, scorecard and ranking system, and ESG-CV background/timeline. The Project Review Committee decided during a meeting on 7/14 that they will make a list of changes to the scorecard at their meeting in August for the Leadership Team to review. The Project Review Committee also requested that Corey/staff be clearer/more explicit with applicants about application requirements and criteria— this has been difficult thus far because of crunched timeline. In future funding rounds, applicants will be provided the scorecard and an application checklist in advance to make evaluation criteria and process as transparent as possible.

The following documents were provided to Leadership Team for reference:

- [Project application materials for review](#)
- [Scorecard for IFC Shelter COVID staffing](#)
- [Scorecard for Orange County Street Outreach](#)

2 Agencies submitted 2 project applications for the \$256,225 available

- Inter-Faith Council requested \$172,280 for a COVID Staff Person (classified as renewal project because IFC is already extant)
 - 7/28/20-09/01/2022, about.
 - Staff person would help with coordinating COVID response: social distancing, enforcing best practices in congregate spaces, dedicated to mitigating spread
- Orange County requested \$256,225 for a Street Outreach Program (classified as new project)
 - 3 staff members (harm reduction specialist and 2 peer support positions) over a 12-month period
 - Working with people living unsheltered to create services and/or housing linkages

- Fills a gap identified in 'Gaps Analysis' of 2017 and has yet to be filled
- Together, these requests total \$428,505 (more than available)
- PRC Members recommend funding Orange County Street Outreach project in full
 - Long-time Orange County gap
 - PRC members really liked IFC proposal and ask that IFC apply again in future rounds of funding. PRC Members would also ask that IFC apply for funds for non-congregate shelter projects as well in future rounds.

Discussion

Leadership Team members discussed whether community policing could fill the same gap that the street outreach project would fill. It was determined that this is not possible because: police can only spend 5-7 percent of their time on this type of work; street outreach provides long-term holistic service linkage rather than individual during periods of crisis; street outreach will be county-wide. Police/pre-arrest diversion program has been successful, but does not sufficiently address the needs of people who have already been justice-involved.

On the topic of how funding would be sustained for street outreach program after the first year, Caitlin Fenhagen from Criminal Justice Resource Department explained that this project would not pursue any further ESG funding; would seek other grants (possibly upcoming Department of Housing and Human Services grant for deflection), as well as reinvestment from law enforcement agencies and/or municipal/county governments.

A LT member requested to hear from the Project Review Committee about how they made their decision. Kathleen Ferguson, Commissioner of PRC, explained that the PRC felt street outreach would address all aspects of the system and splitting the funding would do too much damage to the integrity of each program, would not end up being efficacious for either one. PRC emphasized that they would like to still see the IFC program funded in further rounds. Coordinator reminded LT that HUD has released funding for Round II to the state already (see below for description of upcoming grants). At this time, the Orange County application was also more complete than the IFC application; leaving IFC project for another round gives them the opportunity to tweak their application. PRC also thought that IFC had a better shot of raising private funds.

LT members expressed concern about the urgency of COVID and wondered if it was possible to allocate enough funds to the IFC project to get it started and give the rest to the Orange County application with the idea that both would make up their funding deficits during later rounds of funding. Caitlin explained that this would harm the integrity of the street outreach project and the cycle of arrest/incarceration would continue unabated in the meantime. Jackie Jenks (IFC) explained that IFC is not actually able to raise private funds for their program and is at a structural deficit. Jackie explained how difficult it is to enforce social distancing guidelines across all IFC facilities, especially during mealtimes and when fewer staff members are on site. Caitlin suggested that there could be opportunities for inter-agency collaboration to address some of these issues.

LT members question why the amount requested in the Orange County street outreach project application are almost double the amount estimated for such a program in the Gaps Analysis document. Representatives of this project explained the reasons: this project marries street outreach and criminal justice deflection program; this project is housed at the county, rather than the Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health, and thus there are higher benefits cost/person (this is a better fit though because it allows program to serve a broader array of people, not just the mentally ill, and the county has a greater capacity to run a 24-hour program).



A motion was made to approve the funding recommendation for ESG-CV Round 1 made by the Project Review Committee to allocate all available funds to Orange County Street Outreach project application [Greene, Johnson]. Motion passes. In favor: Broman-Fulks, Buzzard, Carlson, Coston, Ferguson, Foushee, Greene, Johnson, Schehl, Sternman. Against: Howard. Abstained: Fenhagen, Jenks, Sutton.

Corey will submit formal notification to applicants this week.

More Grants on the way:

- Up to 3 coming this summer
 - ESG-CV Round 2 (imminent)
 - Funds have already been released from HUD to the state office, but no RFA released yet.
 - ESG regular allocation (imminent)
 - Continuum of Care (likely but no word as of this meeting)
- 2 Additional grants in the next 12 months
 - ESG-CV Rounds 3 & 4

Next Meeting: August 17 or before if funding opportunities are released in the meantime