



INFORMAL STAFF REPORT

MEMORANDUM

To: Margie C. Rose, City Manager *MR*
Thru: Keith Selman, Assistant City Manager *KS*
From: Rudy Bentancourt, HCD Director *RB*
Date: July 17, 2017
Subject: Homeless Work Program

Request

Provide a memo to Council defining if and how the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) funds can be used for the homeless in a work program.

Background & Findings

During the FY2017-2018 Pubic Hearing and First Reading Ordinance on July 11, 2017, the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department recommended ESG funding for the following non-profit agencies which provide services to the homeless and almost homeless: Corpus Christi Hope House, Corpus Christi Metro Ministries, Family Endeavors of Corpus Christi and The Salvation Army. Each of the agencies requested \$30,000 of ESG funding for FY2017-2018. Due to the amount of ESG entitlement funds received for Corpus Christi, HCD has recommended \$50,050 in funding for each agency.

HCD has reached out to each agency funded to inquire if they have work programs which assist the homeless in obtaining skills for the workplace. Of the agencies replying, none currently have a program available which provides transportation to and from work. The Salvation Army currently has two (2) work programs available to homeless clients. The first is a Culinary Arts School. This is an 8-10 week program where students learn a trade and graduate. The classes conducted in the program are Kitchen 101, Basic Cooking Class, Advanced Cooking Class, Knife skills class, Baking and Deserts, Food Preparation and Catering Services Training. This class has a 95%

success rate where students/clients find jobs frequently before graduating. The second class is Thrift Operations. This is an 8-10 week program where students are trained to work in a retail environment and how a successful warehouse operates. The classes conducted in the program are Pricing, Sorting and Sales, Customer Service, Product Placement and Distribution and Donation Management. With additional funding The Salvation Army is prepared to offer additional work program courses such as Resume Workshop, Interviewing 101 and Conflict Resolution and Emotional Intelligence Training as well as funding for Lodging and food, Program Supplies, Salary coverage for instructors.

Family Endeavors of Corpus Christi was also recommended for funding in the same amount. Family Endeavors provides services only to homeless veterans in the community. At the time of Case Management, a client is referred to an Employment Specialist who will work with the client and provide referrals for employment. Once an appointment is set up, an employment assessment is conducted on the veteran to identify barriers, job skills/training, work history, goals and referral if needed. A plan is developed to provide resources, job search and placement leads, interview preparation and assistance with the overall process. If needed, financial assistance may be approved for the purchase of uniforms, shoes, transportation to work, renewal of licenses or certifications or aids for instruction. All assistance must tie back to the housing stability plan and employment services. Engagement remains until the client is exited from the Veteran Supportive Services Program.

Conclusion

The above listed programs provide services for the homeless in the respective non-profit agencies. The Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department is a funding source, through the Emergency Solutions Grant and can provide funding through a Request for Proposal process for services identified by a non-profit to provide. HCD will work with a non-profit to identify the use of available current year ESG funds to develop and fund a work program which provides transportation to homeless clients staying in shelters for work purposes.