



Pinellas County

Staff Report

File #: 16-1329A, Version: 1

Subject:

Grant Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals.

Recommended Action:

Accept the grant award in the amount of \$2.4 million over three (3) years from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to enhance mental health and substance use treatment services through the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI).

Strategic Plan:

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

2.2 Be a facilitator, convener and purchaser of services for those in need

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and our Customers

5.1 Maximize partner relationships and public outreach

5.2 Be responsible stewards of the public's resources

Summary:

Human Services has been awarded a grant from SAMHSA for the 2016 Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals. The purpose of this program is to enhance and/or expand the infrastructure and mental health and substance use treatment services. CABHI grants increase the capacity to provide accessible, effective, comprehensive, coordinated, integrated, and evidence-based treatment services; permanent supportive housing; peer supports; and other critical services for individuals, Veterans, families, and youth who experience chronic homelessness and have substance use disorders, serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders.

The Mobile Medical Unit Advisory Council will accept the award at its September 6, 2016 meeting.

Background Information:

Since 1988, medical, dental and behavioral health care referrals have been provided to the homeless population in the County. Primary health care is provided at no charge to homeless patients with incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. In 2015, the County served 2,239 unduplicated homeless patients through the Mobile Medical Unit and Safe Harbor medical clinic.

The County, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving homeless individuals, has recognized that behavioral health continues to be a pervasive concern within the community, often affecting the physical health and safety of the most vulnerable citizens. A critical lack of funding has impacted the availability and integration of services and information sharing, inhibiting stability for many individuals. The result is a greater demand for deep-end, expensive crisis care and repeated entry into the criminal justice system and emergency rooms. The County's internal data from its Health Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 indicates that there were 8,152 total emergency room visits by 5,429 clients.

The County is seeking this additional federal funding to address this critical health care need among the homeless population served by its Health Care for the Homeless program. One hundred percent (100%) of clients served in the program are screened for behavioral health issues including substance abuse. Of the patients referred, a small percentage of clients actually overcome the barriers and receive treatment. Barriers to treatment for this target population include lack of adequate transportation, lack of insurance, and lack of assistance with follow up treatment.

Funding from this grant opportunity will increase capacity to provide evidence-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services for individuals who experience homelessness and have serious mental illness, substance use disorder, serious emotional disturbance, and/or co-occurring disorder.

The County will partner and contract with several local agencies providing services including agencies that work with homeless youth, families, and veterans. This funding opportunity also strongly encourages a commitment to permanently house eligible clients. While funding does not support housing, we are looking to increase local housing placement specialists working with the population. It will also allow the County to provide outreach and other engagement strategies for individuals served, including screening and assessment.

Upon implementation of this award, the County's homeless population will be on a path to secure housing, coordinated behavioral health services and reduce their likelihood to use the emergency room for behavioral health and linkage services.

Fiscal Impact:

Federal grant funding in the amount of \$800,000 per year for three years for a total federal award of \$2,400,000. No Cost Sharing/Match is required.

Staff Member Responsible:

Lourdes Benedict, Director, Human Services

Partners:

Boley Centers, Inc
Catholic Charities/Pinellas Hope
Directions for Living
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County
Homeless Empowerment Program
Mobile Medical Unit Advisory Council
Operation PAR
Pinellas County Housing Authority
Ready for Life
WestCare Gulf Coast Florida, Inc.

Attachments:

SAMHSA Notice of Award
SAMHSA Grant Application Package