

Item Title: Establish 1.00 FTE to Provide Community Outreach, Homelessness Prevention, Client Assessments and Service Coordination for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners establishes 1.00 FTE Human Service Program Specialist at the South Wilmington Street Center to provide community outreach, homeless prevention, client assessments and service coordination for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Item Summary:

On August 16, 2016 US Department of Housing and Urban Development notified Wake County of \$137,579 awarded in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. The six eligible program components for ESG include:

1. Street Outreach to engage unsheltered, homeless individuals and families living on the streets, connect them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and provide them with urgent, non-facility-based care;
2. Emergency Shelter to improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families;
3. Homeless Prevention which provides housing relocation and stabilization services and/or short and/or medium-term rental assistance necessary to prevent the individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or another place;
4. Rapid Re-Housing to relocate and stabilize homeless individuals and families living in an emergency shelter or other place;
5. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) improvements and/or comparable database costs; and
6. Administrative activities providing general oversight, coordination and reporting on program outcomes.

Wake County will utilize ESG funds to provide effective street outreach to persons living outdoors in places not meant for human habitation. This position will build trust with persons experiencing homelessness and connect them to community resources, housing and services.

Wake County will also utilize ESG funds to provide prevention and shelter diversion assistance. Prevention assistance can aid households in preserving their current housing situation. Shelter diversion assists households in finding housing outside of shelter while they receive services to stabilize their housing or help them move into permanent housing. Each of these strategies can reduce the number of people entering the homeless assistance system and the demand for shelter and other programmatic housing beds.

The position will also conduct initial Intake and Assessments on new guests seeking services at the SWSC with a goal to provide effective, efficient assessments and access to services so guests seeking support are connected immediately to the most appropriate services available at the SWSC and in the community.

Wake County Housing has incorporated these funds in the Fiscal Year 2017 General Fund budget and requires no additional County dollars to fund a 1.00 FTE Human Services Program Specialist. This ESG allocation requires 100 percent matching funds equal to the allocation. Current Wake County operations at South Wilmington will qualify and meet this match requirement.

Project Budget:

1 FTE Program Specialist (including fringe benefits)	\$ 64,108
Client Assistance/Operations	\$ 73,471
TOTAL	\$ 137,579

Attachments:

1. Award Letter
2. Budget Memo