

Item Title: Housing Rental Assistance Grant Award and Position Authorization

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Accepts a grant award of \$93,650 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and**
- 2. Appropriates \$38,000 to the FY22 Housing Department General Fund; and**
- 3. Establishes 1.00 FTE Housing Social Worker, Reentry Specialist, to the Rental Assistance Housing Program.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: In accordance with the *North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act*, the Board of Commissioners must approve any changes to the budget for a fund. In accordance with the Wake County Personnel Ordinance, the Board of Commissioners must approve any changes to the full-time equivalent position amounts.

Background: Wake County receives approximately \$2 million annually through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity process. Wake County uses these federal funds to provide rental assistance and support services to community members in need of permanent supportive housing. During the 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity process, Housing staff successfully applied for bonus funding to expand the current Continuum of Care Rental Assistance and Supportive Services grant. Additional funding, in the amount of \$93,650, has been conditionally awarded for a Reentry Specialist position, client assistance funds, moving expenses, utility deposits, application fees. It will also support training and educational expenses.

Board Goal: This action supports Community Health and Vitality Goal 3: Support a higher quality of life for vulnerable residents and communities; and Community Health and Vitality Goal 5: Create affordable housing opportunities and support efforts to end homelessness.

Fiscal Impact: The 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity process provides an additional \$93,650 to expand the current Continuum of Care Rental Assistance and Supportive Services grant. Generally, increases in grant funds are built into the annual allocation. The FY22 revenues and expenditures related to this grant are estimated to be \$38,000 and will be accepted and appropriated in the Housing Department General Fund and 1.00 FTE will be established in Housing Department General Fund. The remaining \$55,650 will be included

as part of the annual budget process.

Additional Information:

Wake County receives approximately \$2 million annually through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity process. During the 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity process, the Housing Department applied for bonus funding to expand the Rental Assistance and Supportive Services grant. The effective grant period is from February 1, 2022 to January 30, 2023.

This grant award will provide additional resources and services for community members in need of permanent supportive housing. The grant includes the addition of 1.00 FTE, a Reentry Specialist, as well as funds for client assistance, moving expenses, utility deposits, and application fees. It also includes training and educational funding which is not otherwise covered by programs, projects or community resources. The conditional grant budget is included below.

Eligible Cost	Amount Awarded
Reentry Specialist	\$58,650
Education Services	\$10,000
Employment Assistance	\$10,000
Assistance with Moving Cost	\$7,500
Client Assistance	\$7,500
Total Budget	\$93,650

The Reentry Specialist will provide guidance and support to eligible program participants returning to communities or experiencing barriers due to justice involvement and will work with other community partners including Capital Area Workforce. This includes administering needs assessments, reviewing reentry and personal action plans, employment support, housing search assistance, accessing wrap-around services, conducting wellness checks, facilitating classes, employment verifications, and other case management services. The Reentry Specialist will work closely with the Permanent Housing and Supportive Services Division teams to encourage and empower program participants to become successful members of their families and communities.

Attachments:

1. Budget Memo