

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
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TO: Al Robinson, Chair

THROUGH: Ways & Means Committee  
Robert E. Guenzel

FROM: County Administrator  
Frank Cambria

DATE: Deputy County Administrator  
September 15, 1999

SUBJECT: Collaborative Grant Program For Housing With Supports

**Board Action Requested:**

To support the Collaborative Grant Initiative with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, which will offer grants to local housing providers to increase the permanent and transitional housing opportunities with the necessary supports to achieve positive results. The funding for this project will be adopted in the Biennial budget for 2000-2001. It is further requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Administrator to sign the memorandum of agreement with the Ann Arbor Community Foundation upon review of Corporation Counsel.

## Background

Over the years state and federal funding has restricted eligibility criteria for supportive services along with the service limitations basic to manage care models of service. Substance abuse is a significant factor in the resulting housing instability and homelessness for individuals and families. Local service providers affirm that substance abuse is a challenging problem for people who are homeless. Consumer-focused programs are necessary to achieve stability and self-sufficiency for people who are homeless. This focus relies on consumer-specific supports to secure and maintain stable housing and movement to self-sufficiency.

# Discussion

Supportive housing has been a successful strategy in ours and other communities. These supports include activities not commonly provided with standard tenancy or typical housing opportunities. Areas in which supportive services are often needed include:

\*personal skills--communications, social interactions, money management and personal safety

\*healthcare—medical, rehabilitative, dental, optical, and other

\*recovery and relapse prevention—mental illness, substance abuse, dual diagnosis, and empowerment/self-advocacy

\*household skills—cleaning, safety, relations with neighbors, rights and responsibilities of tenants, and eviction prevention

\*social and community integration—social, recreational and support networks

State and Federal funding for these consumer-based needs are limited. Increasingly, local communities are developing and funding new alliances to supplement state and federal funding.

The local partnership of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and the County is an initial step to new avenues of community funding. In addition, the local nature of this alliance allows for specific shaping of the programs, fitting the service to meet the local needs in alignment with the local values.

The total grant award is \$250,000; \$125,000 distributed each year of the two-year commitment. The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and the County have tentatively agreed to share the funding responsibilities. The County will offer \$150,000 for both years at a rate of \$75,000 each year. The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation commits to offer \$100,000 for both years at a rate of \$50,000 each year. In addition, the AACF has agreed to administer the RFP process. An additional \$200,000 in development loans will be available to the successful applicant if they have received Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) funding in the past. Avalon Housing, Inc. and Washtenaw Affordable Housing Corporation are the two prior recipients of LISC development funds.

It is intended that the grant be awarded through an Request For Proposal in the Fall of 1999. An October submission deadline is anticipated. Site visits to all applicants will be scheduled in November. Recommendations regarding awards will be brought to the County and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation in December. Awards would be distributed in FY2000 and FY 2001.

## Impact on Human Resources

There is no impact on human resources.

### Impact on Budget:

The County's contribution of \$150,000 over the two year period, \$75,000 in 2000 and \$75,000 in 2001, has been committed in the 2000/01 Budget recommendation submitted to the Board of Commissioners on September 15, 1999. The \$75,000 per year will come from the Corporation for Supportive Housing Fund (CSH). We are recommending an appropriation of \$210,000 in 2000 and 2001 to this fund.

## **Impact on Indirect Costs**

There is no impact on indirect costs.

## **Impact on Other County Departments or Outside Agencies**

There is no impact on County Departments. The Agency awarded this grant will increase their ability to supply housing supports for people at risk of homelessness or who are homeless. This may have the impact of creating additional staff positions to the awarded agency.

## **Conformity to County Policies**

This request is in conformity with the County Policy on Board Action Requests. Also, it is in conformity with the County Guiding Principles of Enhancing Customer Service, Focusing on Root Causes, and Cooperation and Collaboration.

Preparer: Frank Cambria

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COLLABORATIVE GRANT INITIATIVE WITH THE ANN ARBOR AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, TO OFFER GRANTS TO HOUSING PROVIDERS; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH ANN ARBOR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## **WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

October 6, 1999

WHEREAS, the gap in supportive services that are consumer-focused has been long noted; and

WHEREAS, the funding from the state and the federal government is limited in scope has inconsistent eligibility criteria, including limitations of managed care models; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners maintains its commitment to enhanced

customer service, focus on root causes, and collaboration and cooperation among organizations; and

WHEREAS, the supportive housing model has been successful in our community and others; and

WHEREAS, the impact of homelessness and instability of housing situations carries a large cost, financially, educationally and socially, for those directly impacted and our community at-large.

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation has expressed interest in jointly developing, funding and distributing a grant to increase the supply of supported housing for homeless people; and

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation has committed \$100,000 for the two year project; and

WHEREAS, the County's contribution of \$150,000 over the two year period, \$75,000 in 2000 and \$75,000 in 2001, has been committed in the 2000/01 Budget recommendation submitted to the Board of Commissioners on September 15, 1999; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel, Finance Department, the County Administrator's Office, and the Ways & Means Committee

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the participation in the Collaborative Grant Initiative with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners directs the Administrator to carry out the RFP process, develop a memo of agreement with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation for the distribution and administration of the awarded funds and to periodically report to the Board on the progress of this initiative.