

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: November 6, 2015

TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by James Mathy, Administrator, Housing Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to accept grant revenue in the amount of \$100,000 and enter into a grant agreement with Bader Philanthropies, Inc. to support Milwaukee County's Plan to End Chronic Homelessness – PASSIVE REVIEW**

Issue

The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization through passive review to accept grant revenue from Bader Philanthropies, Inc. to support Milwaukee County's plan to end chronic homelessness.

Background

The Housing Division recently embarked upon a plan to end chronic homelessness in Milwaukee County as described in a September 2015 informational report (File No. 15-617). This plan is grounded in the "Housing First" approach recognized by the Housing and Urban Development as a best practice based on the concept that a homeless individual or household's first and primary need is to obtain stable housing. Immediate housing is the first step towards obtaining treatment and other wraparound services.

The plan entails the following components: increased outreach to chronically homeless individuals and families; creation of new permanent supportive housing units; additional permanent rental assistance resources; short-term rental assistance; redesign of the Pathways to Permanent Housing program; provision of basic human necessities; and additional staffing to carry out, manage, and evaluate the activities associated with this initiative.

Discussion

The Housing Division of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recently applied for and was awarded a grant to support the overall plan to end chronic homelessness in Milwaukee County.

DHHS received notice from a grant award in the amount of \$100,000 from Bader Philanthropies, Inc. for a one-year period beginning January 1, 2016. This funding will support in part case management, provision of basic human necessities, and an employment pilot. Using this funding, the Housing Division will support a contract with the Guest House of

Milwaukee to provide additional case management capacity. The funding will also support a contract with the Grand Avenue Club for an employment pilot to provide outreach, pre-vocational training, and placements in paid employment opportunities in the community to facilitate greater independence among chronically homeless individuals served through this initiative.

There is no local funding match requirement associated with this grant revenue. It does not require a county match, either with county funding or in-kind services, and is not contrary to the adopted budget or any existing policy, and is consistent with DHHS's role and mission, pursuant to MCO 56.06(1).

Recommendation

The grant award from Bader Philanthropies, Inc. does require a public contract with the County in the amount of \$100,000. Therefore, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.52(31)(b), it is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or his designee, to accept grant funds and enter into a grant agreement in the amount of \$100,000 for a one-year period beginning January 1, 2016 to support Milwaukee County's plan to end chronic homelessness.

Fiscal Impact

Approval of this request has no tax levy impact. The revenue received through the Bader Philanthropies, Inc. grant will cover the full cost of the purchase of service contracts. There is no local funding match requirement associated with this grant revenue. A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
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