

## **CORE Committee Minutes- 4/1/2021**

### **Definitions and Abbreviations**

EHH- State homeless services funding that combines Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) and Housing Assistance Program (HAP).

COC- Continuum of Care

HUD AAQ = HUD Ask a Question

RRH- Rapid Rehousing

ESG-CV- Emergency Solutions Grant Program (funded by the CARES Act)

TRC- Tenant Resource Center

SRO- Single Room Occupancy

DHS- Department of Human Services

### **Helpful Links/resources**

1. Summary of housing related dollars in the American Rescue Plan Act: [COVID-Relief-Budget Reconciliation.pdf \(nlihc.org\)](#)
2. Torrie created a “To-Do-List” [To Do List - Google Docs](#)
3. Attendance document [Homeless Services Consortium of Dane County Attendance \(google.com\)](#)

### **Funding**

Torrie K- COC, update

- There are no updates currently. No dates have been established and no new information has been provided.

Sarah Lim- EHH Update

- Will come out in April or May 2021
- Will likely use last year’s formula to allocate (determine) how much funds will go to the different COCs
  - o The funding (amount and percentage that COCs get) will likely remain the same as 2020
  - o Renewed the previous years grant to this year (2021)
- Will do a full competition, using the same forms and applications that were approved in 2020 with some slight changes based on whatever State changes there are.

### **TRC RRH program**

- Funding through COC funds

- Not planning to continue with the program. Fiscal Year 2020 funds, HUDs just renewed everyone. Torrie spoke with HUD and HUD advised her that their will still be a “competition” but they will allow TRC funds to be transferred to another RRH program for single adults. The Board will still need to approve these changes.
- The agency who receives the transferred funds could be a new agency. Doesn’t need to be an agency that is already funded by HUD.
- Torrie has been developing a list of “things to do” for this process.

## **Homeless Assistance and Supportive Services Program**

### **“The American Rescue Plan”**

- Subsection: in addition to amounts otherwise made available, \$5 million is approved for fiscal year 2021 and it is for affordable housing.
- Brad H spoke with Dave Porterfield.
- “No one knows general parameters at this time.” When can we find out what divisions of local government these funds will be rooted through? Are they RFPs?
  - o These questions tie into other issues in the communities and is time sensitive
- Torrie’s response
  - o City will get some funding, the county will get some funding, state will get some funding, and I assume there will be RFPs. HUD has stated that they will get some rules out about the funding. There has no guidance provided currently.
  - o Brad, “will this come through traditional COC channels with the NOFA?”
    - Torrie- “no, home funds is a big chunk of it”
      - Update: Housing vouchers will be provided with are specific to people experiencing homeless that will go up to PHAs and they will find out how many vouchers they are getting in May 2021
      - Torrie sent Housing Authorities an email to advocate for the use of Coordinated Entry. NO response at this time
      - None of the funds are COC or ESG
  - o Brad “so you think a lot of it will be home funds that have the typical structure for long term differed?
    - Torrie- does not know about how home funds are structured.
    - Sarah- There are \$5 billion total across all states. They are talking about acquisition of hotels etc.
    - Torrie- HUD is pushing acquisition of affordable housing that can remain in communities going forward.
    - Brenda- feels like the money is just going to get dumped on us and we have not had time to plan and projects established. It looks like all of the funds will be used for affordable housing, rental assistance, vouchers for housing. Where do we get the admin money to make everything happen? It does not look like there is any money for more staff at men’s shelter or street outreach.

- Brad- The information that Dave sent me looks like the money could go a number of different ways, it could be rental assistance and development to support affordable housing.
  - Note: Brad is concerned about the use of spending funds on hotels because it is not a long-term housing solution, they are meant as temporary lodging. We need to fund more permanent options like actual development of viable long-term solutions. In addressing the immediate, we lose sight of the long-term. What is the exit strategy? What is the local exit strategy?
    - Torrie- Hotels can be used a long-term option- For example, SROs for the single. These are low-cost options.
    - Brenda- it is also better than people camping outside.
      - Brad- it is the right model for certain people and situations, it is not the right model for many more people.
  - Brenda- You said that the funding is for budget year 2021
    - Torrie- Some of the funds can be spent through 2025. The different pockets have different end dates on them- based on need.
    - Brad- verified spending... through 2025
  - Jalateefa- I would like to see funding offering resources outside of the City of Madison.
    - Torrie- more services does need to be offered throughout the county.
  - Brenda- All of this money we are getting, it does not look like we will be able to extend the programs that we funded with the last money because it is different types of funding. All of the services that we put in place will go away which are mostly the people and services for the people. All of this funding will be put into the housing but there will not be any services to support the people in the housing. What happens will all of our temporary funding goes away?
    - Note: Brenda- ESG-CV funds end April 2022
    - I think the funding is specifically for housing and eviction prevention. Homeless service dollars are not in this pot of money.
  - Jalateefa- Can the HSC invite Secretary Fudge of State (HUD Secretary of State)- have her speak to the direction the federal government is headed in now with HUD.
    - Torrie- We can extend an invitation.
    - Jalateefa- I was read the Request for Presence form, plan at least 5 weeks out. Maybe we can invite her for May or June meeting. That will give us a lot of insight especially when new funds come to the community.
    - Melissa- where can I find this information? *See #1 link above.*
    - Sara L- American Rescue Act (See the table below)

	Continuum of Care	Emergency Solutions Grants	Emergency Rental Assistance: Prevention	Vouchers	Capital Investment	NCS Only
<b>FY21 Appropriations</b>	\$2.71 Billion (includes TA, YHDP, DV, renewals); Tribes can now receive grants in CoC program	\$290 Million		\$43 Million for people experiencing homelessness/at-risk; \$40 million HUD-VASH; \$25 Million FUP		
<b>2020 COVID Funds</b>		\$4 Billion ESG-CV (CARES); Homelessness is CRF eligible activity	\$25 Billion ERAP (Treasury); CRF eligible			FEMA Category B: Non-Congregate Shelter (0 cost share)
<b>American Rescue Act</b>			\$21.5 Billion ERAP (Treasury)	\$5 Billion vanishing vouchers	\$5 Billion HOME Funds (AH, SH, NCS)	
<b>Recovery Package Priorities</b>				Policy: Universal Vouchers	\$39 Billion/ \$26 Billion for PSH	

#### A. Home Funds

- a. Can purchase and rehab permanent housing.
  - b. Support service dollars are also included and allowed
  - c. Funds can be spent through 2025
- Home Funds
- o Melissa- Who decides how these funds get allocated?
    - Torrie- We are unsure at this time, I think that agencies should talk, come up with a plan.
    - Brad- are these conversations happening at the state or city level government?
      - Sara and Torrie have spoken with their bosses at the City level. Torrie sent list of ideas to the State. Torrie has not got a response back from the State. Torrie also emailed people at Deccor (SP?) (EHH funds come from this group)
      - Melissa- I hope that there is a conversation being had that says even though the funds are available for these specific things, in Dane County we need to use the funds for these missing services- housing, outreach, etc. We are prioritizing these services because our data shows that the community is underserved in this way. We need to prioritize the funds based on community need. Whatever agency applies for the funding will support we Dane county is prioritizing. In the past we have prioritized agency versus need.

- Jalateefa- what needs of the community exists? Who is having the conversation? And where are those conversations taking place? Who is invited to the table?

## Gaps Analysis

- Brenda- Funders group, aren't they completing a GAPS analysis? Where are we with that data?
- Torrie- with the GAPS analysis, I want to point out that we have NOT surveyed individuals who have or are currently using services, so we are missing a really important voice.
  - Note: Torrie is working to summarize the GAPS analysis.
- Sara L- We have been thinking about the City's summer funding process. Historically it was here is a dollar amount, what you want to do, submit a proposal? Now we are considering per project type, looking at focusing on need of the community and impact of the service being provided- what impact would a funding decrease have on programs like RRH.
  - Melissa- Can we go further than that? Is it feasible that funders could decide, yes RRH but at this point our family RRH far outweighs our single RRH so we can narrow even further to say, single RRH is what is eligible.
    - Sarah- Yes you could, but we still need to consider impact if we stop funding family RRH.
  - Bard- should we start doing an interim analysis? For what the particular needs are going to be when some of the temporary funding dries up. We put into place a number of things that are not sustainable without certain funding that is extraordinary. So when that funding is no longer there, we can be able to forecast with some amount of certainty what the implications are as a community. For example, what happens when we don't have enough money when we aren't able to support people living in hotels any longer? That's a hug vulnerable population, where do they go and what do they do? There needs to be a planning process associated with that so that when it happens, we can execute.
    - Jalateefa- it would behoove us about what resources are available that can support. There are some resources that are not being used that can support our long-term goals in the community. Those conversations need to happen and not in isolation.
    - Brenda- To Brad's point, there are 210 singles living in hotels right now. But they also have support now from FOCUS. Not only do the hotel rooms go away but also the extra support. The outreach money and other funding will go away.
      - Torrie- what about enrollment in CCS
        - Brenda- about 25% are enrolled in CCS

- Jalateefa- there are a lot of funding resources that we are not using. How can we use them to service people differently and for a longer period of time?
  - Torrie- do we invite, city, county, and state to our CORE meeting. Maybe we can do a presentation to talk about what funds are temporary and discuss what happens once those funds run out. Let them tell us about potential funding opportunities to meet community needs.
    - Melissa- Maybe we have some preliminary results of what our needs assessments is mixed with “this is what is currently being funding, these are the gaps, these are the temporary funding sources. How do we work with you all in the cross-systems?

### **Actions steps**

- Torrie will finalize the summary of GAPS analysis by the next CORE Committee meeting
- Torrie will send out a presentation to the group (sent via email on 4/1/2021- Power Point Presentation)
- At the next CORE meeting we should look at GAPS and community funding
  - Where do they match? Have a working meeting
- Invite Reps
  - Potential visitors
    - Leah Ramirez from DHS
    - Mike Basford from Interagency Council to get advice on who we should include.
- Brenda- Get a list of ESGV funds and where funds were allocated. So that we know what won't be funded.
- Jalateefa- Get a list of resources, homeless service financial pots across the State.

### **Future Final steps**

- Once we hash out the final community plan, decide who we invite- secretaries and representatives.