Greater Richmond Continuum of Care

2023-24 Community Priorities for Coordinated Funding

Background: Each year, the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC) establishes local priorities for allocating federal and state funds that provide approximately nine million dollars for programs working to end homelessness in the region. The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development make this funding available to communities annually, through a data-driven, coordinated process known as the Continuum of Care.

GRCoC funding priorities for the coordinated funding processes reflect local needs and are based on:

- input from people experiencing/with lived experience of homelessness in our community
- performance measures and gaps analysis based on data from the Homeward Community Information System
- priorities established in the federal HEARTH Act and the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program guidelines.

Funding is allocated to communities based on past performance and factors outlined in each Notice of Funding Availability. Each community may submit only one application for funding which includes individual project applications. These priorities may also inform applications for Emergency Solutions Grant programs in entitlement communities.

In 2022, the GRCoC was awarded $4.4 million dollars by HUD to address youth and young adult homelessness through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. Homeward and the GRCoC are working with the Youth Action Board to develop a Coordinated Community Plan and identify youth   specific projects to receive funding.

Additionally, local governments have coordinated with the GRCoC in identifying the strategic allocation of millions of dollars of pandemic response funding and local revenue targeted to address homelessness in the Richmond Region.

The GRCoC coordinated funding process provides limited funding for specific types of programs and sets up expectations of strategic resource allocation, system coordination and system-level performance. The GRCoC Board recognizes that many more programs contribute significantly to the work of addressing homelessness in our community and that the federal and state funding resources allocated through the GRCoC are not sufficient to meet the needs in the community.

<u>**2023-24 Coordinated Funding Priorities**</u>

- Focus coordinated funding resources on the development of new permanent supportive housing projects.
- Expand the capacity of existing homeless service providers by adding capacity and staffing to existing providers increases the number of exits to stable housing.

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- Maximize all available resources to increase the availability supportive housing serving people with serve service needs (as-defined in the GRCoC's Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs)
- Leverage the leadership of the Youth Action Board and youth with lived experience of homelessness to develop impactful YHDP-funded programs.
- Target community partnerships and funding opportunities to address the needs of older adults, and people with complex care needs who are experiencing homelessness.
- Increase capacity to deliver one-on-one housing/system navigation.
- Maximize resources available for housing-focused case management across shelter and permanent housing programs.
- Maintain expanded outreach services to meet the increased in individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The GRCoC's Coordinated Outreach Access Point supports unsheltered households through proactive engagement and connections to emergency shelter, housing, and/or critical services, and providing urgent, non-facility-based care.
- Increase the education and engagement of potential landlords to connect people experiencing homelessness to stable housing.
- Continue to seek additional funding through other resources to expand services and resources to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness.
- Support programs and staffing to facilitate coordinated services including prioritization, referrals, and case conferencing.
- Facilitate high data quality in HMIS or the comparable database used by domestic violence/ sexual assault provider.