



Human Services
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**City of Spokane
Proposed Utilization of American Recovery and Assistance Act Funds
Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program**

The City of Spokane Human Services Department (HSD) acts as the Regional Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinator and grantee with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance grants. HSD will oversee the selection and administration of the City's HUD stimulus funds known as the Homelessness Prevention and Re-housing Program (HPRP). The department will work closely with local CoC leadership in the selection of HPRP sub-grantees.

The City of Spokane Human Services Department plans to convene strategy planning meetings with members of the Regional Continuum of Care, Washington State's Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Employment Security Department (ESD/WorkSource), and with other State agencies who have immediate contact with families and individuals seeking emergent safety net services. HSD, and these stakeholder entities will devise a process for all organizations to collaborate by effectively addressing homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing strategies for local residents. This process will include early identification of those at imminent risk of homelessness, and the coordinated provision of wrap-around services to ensure families and individuals avoid homelessness through the use of HPRP funds.

The City intends to carryout a modified Request for Proposal process, inviting select agencies to submit HPRP proposals. Agencies currently under contract with the City for homelessness prevention and rehousing efforts, and those who have demonstrated capacity to use the funds appropriately and within the grant period will be invited to a community HPRP planning meeting and to subsequently submit a proposal. Collaborative proposals will be encouraged.

Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities are identified in Spokane's Regional 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness as strategies this community has prioritized to end homelessness. We will specifically seek proposals that help our community successfully implement these two strategies.

Proposals will be rated by an ad-hoc committee of the CoC, with final approval for sub-grantee awards made by the Spokane City Council. Rating criteria for proposals will be the following:

- Applicant's ability to identify people who have a high likelihood of becoming homeless and target resources effectively;
- Applicant's ability to provide appropriate level of assistance to prevent and/or end an episode of homelessness;
- Applicant's proposed HPRP budget clearly demonstrates ability to expend funds within the required time frame;
- Applicant's experience working with and delivering specific activities; and
- Applicant's readiness and capacity to begin program services immediately.

Local housing and service provider agencies with current administrative, as well as staffing capacities, will be invited to apply for sub-grantee HPRP funds. Agencies will be limited to those who have a proven record of quality service provision, and who can provide immediate homelessness prevention services and/or rapid re-housing services to families and individuals determined to be at-risk and/or, are currently homeless.

Funds will be allocated into two funding streams that complement the top two priorities addressed in Spokane's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, which are: Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing services. HSD will allocate 60% of its HPRP funds toward homelessness prevention services and 40% of funds toward rapid re-housing initiatives.