

Houseless Advocacy Update: Grant Coordination



January 19, 2021

Presentation to Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

Background

- Received some grant funding from the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), Interfaith Alliance on Poverty, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, and the Jubitz Family Foundation
- We found out about a grant opportunity through the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), a state agency whose mission is to:
 - “We provide stable and affordable housing and engaged leaders, to develop integrated statewide policy that address poverty and provides opportunities for Oregonians”

OHCS Emergency Solutions Grant–Coronavirus Relief (ESG-CV) Program

- Federal funds (HUD) to be:

“utilized to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or receiving homelessness assistance, and to support additional homelessness assistance and homeless prevention activities to mitigate the impact created by COVID-19.”
- **\$3 million allocated for Multnomah County**

How It Started

- Use some of our funds and volunteer effort to support grassroots organizations support our unhoused neighbors who would not otherwise be able to apply for this funding
- Pay for a professional grant writer and project manager
- Work our networks to find a organization to act as the applicant for the grant
- Work our networks to find grassroots organization doing the important work of supporting our unhoused neighbors

How It's Going

- Recruited Do Good Multnomah (DGM) to act as the applicant for this grant
- Recruited and selected 5 grassroots organizations to be part of this application
- **Submitted a grant for \$702,965 on December 31st !!!**

Do Good Multnomah

The mission of Do Good Multnomah (DGM) is to **support both Veteran- and non-Veteran-focused communities that inspire dignity, sustainability, and purpose.** We serve adult homeless households through the provision of low-barrier year-round emergency shelters, low-barrier winter shelters, low-barrier transitional housing, rapid re-housing programs, outreach and engagement services and more. We also provide intensive support services and are developing permanent supportive housing specifically for adult homeless Veterans.

Voz Workers' Rights Education Project

Voz Workers' Rights Education Project will provide culturally specific street outreach and rapid re-housing services to day laborers and domestic workers who are homeless and most of whom are Latinx.

Voz will create a peer-mentor street outreach team that will help homeless day laborers and domestic workers meet their basic needs and connect with resources, including Voz's new Housing and Resource Navigator Specialist. This person will help homeless clients access housing opportunities and any other resources they require to become more stable, she will help them get off the streets immediately with the use of a new direct housing relief fund, and she will provide case management to help keep them in their new homes.

Portland Street Medicine

Portland Street Medicine (PSM) will **vaccinate unsheltered people against COVID-19**. They have met many unsheltered people who want to get the vaccine but lack health insurance and connection to a health system that would flag them as a high priority for it because of underlying medical conditions.

Rahab's Sister

Rahab's Sisters will provide culturally responsive street outreach to unsheltered women and gender nonconforming people, many of whom have been further marginalized by sex work, violence, and substance use. They will **provide people with mental health counseling from licensed professionals, as well as home-cooked healthy meals, hygiene and other survival supplies, and referrals to other services.**

Rahab's Sisters has been doing this work in congregate, communal ways since 2003, and they shifted this year to socially distanced forms of street outreach. The need for their mental health counseling was starkly underlined in a 2018 survey they conducted of their guests, in which 70% identified mental health as one of the top stressors in their lives.

Hygiene4All

Hygiene4All (H4A) provides unsheltered people with trauma-informed and culturally responsive street outreach that includes hygiene care, basic wound and foot care, waste management, bedding and clothing exchange, and referral services.

H4A offers bathrooms and showers that are sanitized after each use 34 hours each week. Similarly, H4A is one of the only places in Portland where one can get treatment for lice, scabies, and bedbugs and also completely replace their clothing and bedding supplies and take a shower within an hour's time; all three tasks are required for successfully ridding oneself of this common skin parasite, but to accomplish all three tasks anywhere else may take days and result in reinfection.

Agape Village

Agape Village will **double the capacity of its non-congregate shelter in a deeply under-resourced part of SE Portland**, where many unsheltered people live. Because of its current understaffing, Agape Village has only been able to host people in seven of its 15 pods, and the village currently lacks restroom and shower facilities, electricity and heat.

This project will add a second part-time case manager to the staff, and it will provide the village with a shower/restroom trailer and with heat and electricity.

Building Capacity

- The five grassroots organization will learn how to use the data management system (HMIS) required for most public homeless funding. **This will better position the organizations to apply for future funding opportunities including money from the recently-passed Metro Bond.**
- All of the organizations, including ASVF, will participate in monthly meetings for at least the duration of the grant (June 2022).
- This process has exposed us to grassroots organizations—including some that were not part of the final grant application—that we may support or collaborate with in the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support!