



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST CONTINGENCY REQUEST

(Revised: 8/18/11)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 11/8/12
Agenda Item #: R.2
Est. Start Time: 9:40 am
Date Submitted: 10-31-12

Agenda Title: BUDGET MODIFICATION Nondepartmental-11 requesting General Fund Contingency Transfer of \$10,000 to assist the Veterans Affairs Administration and Community Partners in housing 87 chronically homeless Veterans by December 31, 2012

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: November 8, 2012 **Time Needed:** 10 minutes
Department: Nondepartmental **Division:** District 4 & 1
Contact(s): Corie Wiren, Beckie Lee
Phone: 503-988-5213 **Ext.** 26234 **I/O Address:** 503/6
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Steve Rudman, Home Forward; Marc Jolin, JOIN;

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approval of a one-time-only transfer of \$10,000 from General Fund contingency to assist the Veterans Affairs Administration and community partners in an effort to house 87 chronically disabled Veterans by December 31, 2012.

These funds will be moved to program offer 25133A – Housing Stabilization for Vulnerable Populations. The County contribution will be pooled with matching contributions from the City of Portland and Home Forward and used specifically to provide the flexible assistance for housing placement specialists at the VA and community organizations. Flexible funds, like the application fees, furniture, bus tickets, etc. are necessary to move Veterans into housing. Once housed, the HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) program will pay for rent and the supportive services that Veterans need to stay housed.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

The HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) is a critical program in ending homelessness for Veterans. The program is funded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Veterans Affairs Administration (VA) and combines rental assistance and clinical services to ensure chronically homeless veterans get off the streets, into housing and have the support services they need to stay housed. HUD-VASH vouchers are allocated to communities based on need. Multnomah County currently has 305 vouchers, which means we have the ability to house 305 disabled homeless veterans through this program.

If the vouchers are not used (ie Veterans placed in housing) by December 31st our region will have to send dollars back to the Federal Government. Additionally, we risk reductions to future vouchers if we are not able to successfully use them this year.

Staff from the Veterans Administration, the City of Portland, Home Forward, Multnomah County and community partners are working collaboratively to utilize the remaining 87 vouchers by December 31st, 2012. The group has identified two areas of need which are critical to achieving this goal. First, while the VA has the rent assistance for housing, they do not have the flexible assistance that is necessary to actually get Veterans through the housing placement process. Flexible assistance is approximately \$500 per Veteran and includes things like application fees, bus tickets to get to appointments, furniture and other moving costs.

The second major need identified by the VA and community partners is to find apartments for Veterans to rent. The County is working with our partners to reach out to landlords and ask them to participate in this program by renting to Veterans.

This request will provide \$10,000 of flexible assistance for 20 Veterans. In addition to the County's contribution, the City of Portland and Home Forward are each providing \$10,000 for a total of \$30,000 in flexible assistance to fund this effort. These funds will leverage up to \$8,640 per voucher per year in rent assistance and supportive services that will be provided by the VA if Veterans are successfully housed. This is an as much as \$172,800 in Federal rent assistance leverage for the \$10,000 County investment, as well as case management and health care services.

According to the 2011, One Night Homeless Count, 464 adults, or 12% of homeless adults counted on that night, reported that they were a U.S. Military Veteran over age 18. In comparison, 9% of Multnomah County's population is Veterans, and nationally, less than 8% of the population has Veteran status. Fully utilizing these federal resources will bring us closer to meeting the critical housing needs of this vulnerable veteran population.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

The cost for FY 2013 is \$10,000. This is a one-time only request.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

N/A

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

This contingency request will leverage matching funds of \$10,000 each from the City of Portland and Home Forward. More significantly, this \$10,000 investment will ensure that chronically homeless disabled veterans are able to access these vouchers, which provide a subsidy up to \$8,640 per Veteran per year.

Budget Modification

If the request is a **Budget Modification**, please answer all of the following in detail:

- **What revenue is being changed and why? If the revenue is from a federal source, please list the Catalog of Federal Assistance Number (CFDA).**

N/A

- **What budgets are increased/decreased?**

N/A

- **What do the changes accomplish?**

N/A

- **Do any personnel actions result from this budget modification? Explain.**

N/A

- **If a grant, is 100% of the central and department indirect recovered? If not, please explain why.**

N/A

- **Is the revenue one-time-only in nature? Will the function be ongoing? What plans are in place to identify a sufficient ongoing funding stream?**

N/A

- **If a grant, what period does the grant cover? When the grant expires, what are funding plans? Are there any particular stipulations required by the grant (i.e. cash match, in kind match, reporting requirements etc)?**

N/A

Contingency Request

If the request is a **Contingency Request**, please answer all of the following in detail:

- **Why was the expenditure not included in the annual budget process?**

This need was not anticipated during the budget process. Flexible assistance has long been determined as a need of the Veterans Affairs Administration but Congress has not authorized dollars for the VA to spend in this way.

- **What efforts have been made to identify funds from other sources within the Department/Agency to cover this expenditure?**

STRA funds allocated in the FY 2013 budget are already allocated through contracts to community providers to meet the need of homeless families.

- **Why are no other department/agency fund sources available?**

All other funding sources are currently allocated to existing programs.

- **Describe any new revenue this expenditure will produce, any cost savings that will result, and any anticipated payback to the contingency account. What are the plans for future ongoing funding?**

This request for \$10,000 from contingency, combined with matching funds from partner agencies, will enable 87 chronically homeless veterans to access stable housing, case management, and clinical services through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Though eligible for VA benefits, these individuals are currently experiencing homelessness and often use county-funded programs and may not otherwise be engaged in VA services. This funding will allow the VA to house veterans and take over their case management, health, mental health and other needs, freeing up County services for other individuals.

- **Has this request been made before? When? What was the outcome?**

No.

NOTE: If a Budget Modification or a Contingency Request attach a Budget Modification Expense & Revenues Worksheet and/or a Budget Modification Personnel Worksheet. If it is a General Fund Contingency Request, a memo from the Budget Office must be submitted.

Required Signatures

Elected Official or Dept Director: Diane McKeel /s/ **Date:** 10/31/12

Budget Analyst: _____ **Date:** _____