



Agenda Item:

44

## **COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

### **City Manager's Office**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Agenda Date: 01/23/06  
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.: 06-024  
Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Chris Johansen, Housing Services Director

#### **SUBJECT—**

Approval of Supportive Housing Program (SHP) Grant Agreement Amendment with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

#### **SYNOPSIS—**

This SHP Grant Agreement Amendment by and between HUD and the City of Des Moines is for supplemental funding for local homeless programs to address service gaps. The amendment changes the project sponsor and location from the American Red Cross – Central Iowa Chapter to Primary Health Care, Inc.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT—**

This grant award totals \$150,810, which the Housing Services Department will administer. The City will retain \$3,591 (approximately 2.4 percent of the total grant award) of the grant funds for administrative costs.

#### **RECOMMENDATION—**

Approval.

#### **BACKGROUND—**

On behalf of the City, the Housing Services Department submitted an application to HUD for SHP funding to provide supplemental funding to address service gaps in local homeless programs in Des Moines and Polk County. As the applicant, the City is responsible for the overall management and administration of the grant, including drawdowns, fund distribution and reporting to HUD.

HUD has forwarded a grant agreement amendment of SHP funding totaling \$150,810, for a two-year period from 2004 to 2006, which requires Council approval. The grant agreement amendment will transfer the operation of the Homeless Helpline from the Red Cross to Primary Health Care, Inc. On July 26, 2005, the Red Cross requested that the SHP contract between the City and their agency be terminated because they were not able to meet the reporting requirements set forth in the grant agreement. The SHP reporting requirements are not a good “fit” with help-line projects because they are not able to track the final outcome for each client.

Through agreements with homeless service providers, Primary Health Care, will provide access to housing and services for homeless persons and track the final outcome of clients referred by either the Red Cross' 211 Hotline or their own centralized telephone response service which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. After intake and assessment of callers, they are referred to appropriate services.

Utilizing the Service Point Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a computerized database is maintained and the progress of clients is tracked through the Continuum of Care system.