

Arkansas Department of Human Services

Substantial Amendment

To the

Arkansas State Consolidated Plan

Annual Action Plan-2015

Summary

The State of Arkansas seeks to utilize remaining balances from previous years' Emergency Shelter Grant Program Funds to provide additional funding resources to approved homeless shelters around the state for use in the provision of Emergency Shelter and to increase staff to more effectively manage the Emergency shelter Program. Shelter Operations funding is used by homeless shelters in the following areas: Essential Services, Rehabilitation and Renovation, and Shelter Operations. These funds will be used throughout the State of Arkansas under a range of eligible activities targeted to support maintenance and operation of emergency shelters for the homeless population. This requires a Substantial Amendment to the State of Arkansas Consolidated Plan. This document constitutes the formal Substantial amendment to HUD for modification of strategies and priorities outlined in the 2015 State Consolidated Plan.

Estimated Resources

The estimated resources available in this Substantial Amendment consist of previously approved projects with remaining balances. The entire amount of these remaining balances will be used in assisting homeless persons and families through the provision of Emergency Shelter and to add one staff member to the Emergency Shelter Grant Program staff to monitor and manage the program. The amount of these funding resources is \$838,717.79.

Strategies

These funds will be utilized by the Emergency Solutions Grant Program to provide Emergency Shelter to homeless families (especially homeless families with children) and persons requiring assistance throughout the State of Arkansas. The funds will assist the homeless by covering the costs of maintaining and operating homeless shelters in the provision of services designed to

move these families and persons into permanent housing, and teaching the skills necessary for them to maintain permanent housing.

This funding will allow for an additional staff member to be hired to assist the participating agencies in: grants management, eligibility verification, invoice processing, and reimbursement and grant guidance.

All standards and priorities for expenditures of these funds will correspond to those outlined in the State of Arkansas Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan for 2015.

Citizen Participation

In addition to the public hearings previously advertised and conducted during development of the 2015 Consolidated Plan, and in accordance with State Consolidated Plan citizen participation requirements, notice of a public hearing regarding this Substantial Amendment has been published in a statewide newspaper. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow the citizens of Arkansas the opportunity to comment on the Substantial Amendment. Notices and public comments received during the public hearing are included later in this packet.

Emergency Shelter

Funding available through this Substantial Amendment will be allocated to emergency shelters throughout the state to provide activities designed to reduce and eliminate homelessness in the State of Arkansas. Activities eligible under the Emergency Shelter Heading are as follows:

Essential Services: Case Management, Child Care, Education Services, Employment Assistance and Job Training, Outpatient Health Services, Legal Services, Life Skills Training, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Treatment Services, Transportation and Services for Special Populations.

Rehabilitation and Renovation: Costs of renovating buildings to be used as emergency shelter for homeless families and individuals.

Shelter Operations: Costs of operating and maintaining emergency shelters and of providing other emergency shelter, when appropriate. This includes food, clothing, rent, security, fuel for facility vehicles, insurance, utilities, furnishings, equipment, supplies necessary for the operation of the shelter and hotel/motel vouchers for families or individuals only when all shelter beds are full.

Provision of all services listed above will be made with the goal of moving the homeless individuals and families out of the shelter and into permanent housing, and teaching them the skills necessary to maintain that permanent housing.

Administration

An additional Grants Analyst position will be added to the Emergency Solutions Program staff to assist participating agencies in managing the expenditure of these additional funds. Services provided will include monitoring of program effectiveness, interpretation of and compliance with HUD guidelines in verification of eligibility requirements for expenditures, processing of invoices for program expenditures and reimbursement of participating agencies for program expenditures, and training of participating agencies' staff on program requirements.

Allocation

Because these funds must be expended very quickly, they will be allocated to shelters which have the capacity to do that. As stated in the State Consolidated Plan, families with children will be the target population for assistance. Shelters with high volumes of clients will be prioritized, in order to maximize the opportunity to spend the funds as quickly as possible.