



Interoffice Memorandum

February 13, 2023

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
County Commissioners

C.M.

Carrie Mathes, CFCM, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, C.P.M., Manager II,
Procurement Division

CONTACT: Donna Wyche, Manager, Mental Health and Homelessness Issues
Division
(407) 836-7608

SUBJECT: Approval of Federal Subrecipient Agreement Y22-2415, Providing
Funding for Homeless Prevention and Diversion

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of Federal Subrecipient Agreement Y22-2415, Providing Funding for Homeless Prevention and Diversion, between Orange County and Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, Inc., for a federal subaward in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,001,914.80.

Request delegation of authority to the Procurement Division Manager or designee to execute such Federal Subrecipient Agreement on a form approved by the Orange County Attorney's Office and the Risk Management Division.

PURPOSE:

This subaward is issued from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (the "Recovery Fund") allocation received by the County on May 18, 2021.

This agreement will define the working relationship between Orange County, Florida and Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, Inc., the Federal Subrecipient for the subaward period of performance of February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.

DISCUSSION:

In accordance with the Code of Ordinances, Part I, Chapter 17, Article III, Section 17-286 – Application and Exclusions, agreements between the Board and nonprofit organizations are excluded from competitive procurement requirements.

The funding will allow for the expansion of homeless prevention and diversion services for residents of Orange County, Florida, and to expand homeless outreach to the more underserved outer regions of the County. This will be accomplished within established guidelines and additionally add internal and external health services coordination to the County's provision of care to unsheltered and housing insecure populations. The subrecipient (a current provider of diversion and prevention in Orange County) will expand availability to residents meeting criteria and entering the homeless system in Orange County.

Throughout its use of the Subaward, the Subrecipient will expand the area to which such services are typically provided while increasing its current service level, creating additional capacity to serve the homeless and housing insecure, and increasing health and awareness. Specifically, the Subrecipient will provide Bridge Housing, Flexible Financial Assistance, and COVID-19 Health Services to COVID-19 impacted Orange County residents.

The COVID-19 emergency had caused a substantial increase in families and individuals to losing employment, losing their housing, and suffering from other detrimental impacts including social, emotional, mental, and physical health distress. Research demonstrates an increase in the number of families and individuals affected by COVID-19. As one of the many consequences of COVID-19, housing insecurity has increased resulting in an increase in the number of individuals seeking shelter and housing assistance.

The impacted class are residents of Orange County who are low-income, defined as having a household income of 185% or less of the most current federal poverty guidelines, or who have otherwise suffered due to:

1. A financial COVID-19 related impact and
2. Homelessness or
3. Imminent risk of homelessness

Residents of Orange County in need will be referred when seeking shelter and/or entering the homeless system of care. The Subrecipient will assess for need, impact, and provide resources, some of which may be time limited.

The COVID-19 pandemic created a negative impact and increased need for housing assistance despite little to no affordable housing availability. The Subrecipient plays a significant role in the community as a provider of support program services, amongst a variety of other services focused on Prevention, Diversion, Rapid Rehousing, and non-clinical Healthcare Coordination. Services include case management, connection to medical and housing resources.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness recommends diversion as the initial stage of the crisis response system. Safe and appropriate diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness by helping people experiencing a housing crisis to preserve their current housing situation or make immediate alternative arrangements.

1. Diversion prevents homelessness for people seeking emergency services by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements or helps them stay where they are if safe and appropriate.
2. Diversion is problem-solving and solutions-focused.
3. Diversion is not a separate "program" but rather part of the entire crisis response system.
4. Diversion should always be safe and appropriate for the person or household seeking help.

5. Diversion should feel like a service, not like being turned away with no assistance.
6. Diversion happens through a coordinated entry process and at the shelter front door.