

SANDY FUNDING CRITERIA WORKSHEET

State Department:
Human Services
Name of Expenditure Program:
Atlantic County Integrated Homeless Assistance Model
Amount:
\$2,000,000

Overview:

Funding is requested to set up an integrated homeless assistance model where residents of Atlantic County, and especially Atlantic City, who find themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness, may find assistance. Through an in-kind space donation from Atlantic County government, the integrated assistance model will be co-located in the same building where government social service programs are administered. The program will assist in maximizing the homeless and other disaster resources available in Atlantic County. Atlantic County households requesting services will be screened for residential resources and other social services that may be available to them in their storm impacted county. The single point program will help to leverage resources from other partner programs such as housing vouchers available through disaster CDBG, Disaster Case Management and crisis counseling (both funded through FEMA), and behavioral health and housing services requested through the disaster SSBG Pre-expenditure plan.

The DHS, Division of Family Development will contract with the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) in order to expedite the procurement of services. The CRDA will put out the RFP, accept the proposals and award the contract after the proposals have been evaluated by a team consisting of the Governor's Policy Office, NJ Department of Human Services, and Atlantic County government staff. The RFP is attached to this Funding Criteria Worksheet. Once the CRDA has awarded the contract, they will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Atlantic County Government designating them the contract oversight. The RFP will be open to those agencies comprising the Atlantic County Continuum of Care – the federally recognized agencies funded for the provision of homeless. Note, the CRDA will not receive any administrative costs for the procurement activities, their assistance is in-kind.

Atlantic City is one of the poorest cities in New Jersey with a median annual household income of \$29,448, 57% below the State median and an unemployment rate of 14.3%, almost 5 points above the State average. The barrier island has limited housing stock and a multiyear waiting list for public housing. Superstorm Sandy has exacerbated the challenges of the city's low-income residents.

Affordable housing stock has been severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy, including many residences utilized by individuals and families at risk of homelessness. Several motels where single adults were able to find lodging were rendered uninhabitable as a result of the storm and as of this writing, are still not available to residents. An examination of data collected on Sandy-displaced households residing in FEMA temporary shelter assistance (TSA) placements showed that as of January 8, 2013, 522 of the 2,186, almost 25%, of Atlantic County Sandy-displaced households were in a temporary shelter arrangement. As of January 8, 2013, Atlantic County also had the second highest number of households residing in TSA. Sandy-displaced households residing in TSA can be considered homeless and may not have been previously known to the homeless system in Atlantic City and County. When TSA ended in New Jersey on April 30, 2013, 15 of the remaining 60 households were Atlantic County residents and were receiving referrals to partner agencies.

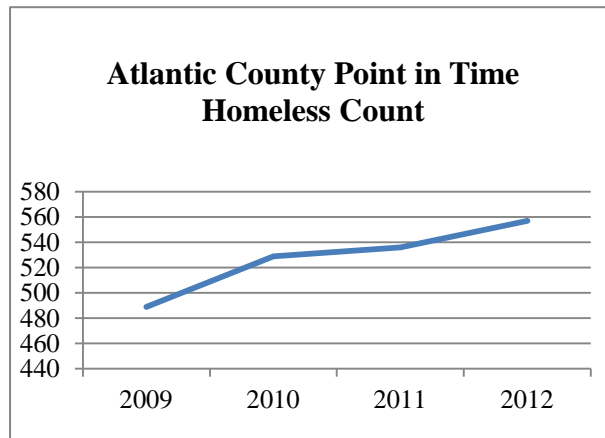
While households receiving TSA are easy to count, it is almost impossible to count the number of households that moved with family and friends and may, at any time, confront the prospect of having to

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leave their arrangement.

The HUD mandated Point-in-Time Homeless Count provides additional data on homelessness in Atlantic County. In the years prior to Superstorm Sandy, the one night count of homeless residents has been rising steadily since 2009. 2013 data are not yet available although it is likely to show that the storm increased the number of people counted.



In order to establish the integrated assistance model, a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be developed. The responding bids will determine the final cost of the program, which will not exceed \$2,000,000 through September 30, 2015. The request will be open to members of the Atlantic County Continuum of Care (CoC) and those agencies currently serving homeless residents in Atlantic County. The envisioned program may include a director, case managers, housing, legal and behavioral health specialists. Proof of the ability to work collaboratively with area provider agencies will be required. Use of the HUD Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) will be required. Given the increasing number of homeless residents as noted in the Point-in-Time Homeless Count, the experience of the TSA program, and the slow recovery of housing in Atlantic County, especially Atlantic City, it is estimated that demand for services will be high during the recovery period.

Federal Department of Origin:

US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services –Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, (P.L. 113-2); “Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Funds” to address necessary expenses resulting from Hurricane Sandy, including social, health, and mental health services for individuals, and for repair, renovation and rebuilding of health care facilities (including mental health facilities), child care facilities, and other social services facilities.

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Federal Requirements / Restrictions:

Meets the Federal definition of allowable use of SSBG funding. In addition, in the June 24, 2013, letter to Commissioner Velez from the Acting Assistant Secretary for US DHHS, this was deemed an allowable expenditure.

Procurement Process:

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Once the CRDA has awarded the contract, they will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Atlantic County Government designating them the contract oversight.

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Eligibility Standards:

Atlantic County is the appropriate entity to oversee the contract because it is responsible for administering State and Federal social service benefits to the residents of the County.

Eligibility to submit a bid in response to the RFP is open to current agencies comprising the HUD recognized Atlantic County Continuum of Care.

Eligible individuals or families to receive services under the contract resulting from this RFP must:

- Reside within the geographic boundaries of Atlantic County
- Meet the HEARTH Act definition of homeless¹ as follows:

(1) Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and

¹ See <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2011/12/05/2011-30942/homeless-emergency-assistance-and-rapid-transition-to-housing-defining-homeless>

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includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;
(2) individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
(3) unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition; and
(4) individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

Implementation/Timeline:

Estimated timeline:
RFP release – Week of July 15, 2013
Proposal submission deadline – Week of August 5, 2013
Proposal review – August 12 – 23, 2013
RFP award – Week of September 2, 2013

IT Requirements:

The RFP outlines the IT requirements for the contracted agency.

Tracking/Monitoring:

Department of Human Services/Division of Family Development
One contract monitor will be hired through a temporary staffing contract to oversee this contract.

Atlantic County:
Atlantic County will be subject to the current contract monitoring procedures in place for regular SSBG funding in addition to the Super Storm Sandy monitoring procedures set up by the Office of the Comptroller, the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding, the Department of Human Services – Division of Family Development, and the US DHHS Administration for Children and Families.

The Contract Awardee:

It is expected that the federally mandated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) will be the critical component for assuring accountability. The chosen provider must agree to utilize HMIS to document assessments, referrals, and monitoring of enrollment and outcomes. In addition, the chosen provider must secure agreements from all county partners to use HMIS. The chosen provider and its partners must all comply with HMIS data quality standards.

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The entity contracted as a result of the RFP must describe the internal controls and monitoring procedures that will be put in place to ensure the appropriate use of allocated funds.

The awardee must fully participate and cooperate in a state evaluation that will commence with the contract award. The evaluation will be conducted by the Department of Human Services and may include but will not be limited to: implementation evaluation, process evaluation, outcome evaluation and cost-benefit analysis.

The awardee must fully participate and cooperate with all federal and state reporting and monitoring requirements as outlined by the NJ Department of Human Services, the NJ Office of the State Comptroller, and the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.
