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2019 Iowa Balance of State (IA-501) Continuum of Care (CoC) Grantee Renewal Application

APPLICANT NAME AND INFORMATION

Organization Name:	Crisis Intervention Services
Renewal Project Name:	Pathway 2 Independence
Project Name(s) as appearing in HMIS/DVIMS:	Crisis Intervention Services - Pathway 2 Independence DV (TH)(195)
Grant Identifier:	IA0013L7D011710
Project Type:	Transitional Housing (TH)
Projected number of clients to be served in renewal grant period:	12
Anticipated Renewal Amount:	36855.00
Verify current registration in federal System for Award Management:	Yes
DUNS #:	799882592
Counties Served by Project:	Appanoose, Davis, Jasper, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lucas, Marion, Mahaska, Monroe, Poweshiek, Wapello, and Wayne
Address of Administrative Office:	500 High Ave West Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Primary Contact Name:	Jen Rice
Primary Contact Phone:	(641) 673-0336
Primary Contact Email:	jenr@stopdvsa.org
Secondary Contact Name:	Abby Foertsch
Secondary Contact Phone:	(641) 673-5499
Secondary Contact Email:	abbyf@stopdvsa.org

THRESHOLD ASSURANCES

Having too little or no income:	NOT a Barrier
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Having a criminal record with exceptions for state, and/or federal restrictions: NOT a Barrier

Fleeing domestic violence (e.g., lack of a protective order, period of separation from abuser, or law enforcement involvement): NOT a Barrier

Having (or not having) a previous address within Iowa: NOT a Barrier

Failure to comply with HUD's 2016 Gender Identity Rule: NOT a Barrier
(<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1991/equal-access-to-housing-final-rule/>)

Failure to comply with Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Requirements including assuring non-discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and familial status and disability. NOT a Barrier

Attach project Policies & Procedures to verify barrier statuses selected above: https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74759947/510752509/74759947_policy_to_verify_not_barrier_status.pdf

CONTINUUM OF CARE PARTICIPATION

1. a. What percentage of your clients served do you feel were referred through coordinated entry? Explain your response. Less than 5%. We do not currently have an operational coordinated entry system in our region.

1. b. Describe timeline/progress of Coordinated Entry in your region. Explain your project's participation in Coordinated Entry and the steps taken to support the Coordinated Entry process in the project's region.

Jen Rice attended meetings with HACAP, H0me Forward Iowa, and ICA on behalf of the Iowa Council on Homelessness to form a coordinated services region through the BOS for Jasper, Mahaska, Marion and Warren counties. These meetings were on 8/16/18, 9/20/18, 10/12/18, and 10/18/18. We discussed key players, as well as how we could participate in the planning and implementation of a local coordinated entry system. As our Executive Director resigned in September of 2018, we did not feel we had the capacity to take on a lead role for coordinated entry, but we are very interested in being a participating agency. Also- we have been working with SIEDA in Appanoose county on developing a coordinated entry system. We are attending monthly meetings to get this process up and going. We are very excited about this development as this is one of our most rural areas.

2. Since January 2018, have representatives of your project attended at least three bimonthly meetings of the Iowa Council on Homelessness? Note that anyone can participate in Council meetings even if not a voting member. Posted meeting minutes must be available to verify attendance.

Yes.
July 20, 2018- Jen Rice
April 4, 2019- Abby Foertsch
May 17, 2019 Abby Foertsch

3. a. Describe professional development opportunities (conferences, meeting, trainings, webinars, etc.) related to Homelessness in which representatives of your project have participated within the last 12 months.

3/15/18- Jen watched the Coordinated Entry Webinar Recording and Evaluation put on by The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.
3/19/18- Abby watched Renters Rights Webinar put on by National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
5/14/18- Jen watched Learn More About Proposals to Cut Housing Benefits Webinar put on by NLIHC
6/13/18-6/14/18- Abby and Shawn went to the 2018 Iowa/Nebraska Peer-to-Peer Homelessness Symposium
9/4/18-9/5/18- Jen, Pearl, Rebekka, and Emileigh attended the 2018 HousingIowa Conference
11/12/18-11/16/18- All staff participated in Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Activities
March 2019- All staff read and discussed the book: Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond
5/3/19- Abby watched the Emergency Shelter Learning Series Webinars put on by National Alliance to End Homelessness

3. b. From the mentioned above, list the top three (3) most useful experiences and describe how your project implemented information gained from them?

The information from the Peer-to-Peer given has been implemented to focus our conversations with individuals around housing solutions. We work on problem solving with clients to prevent homelessness and provide supportive outreach services to ensure success in permanent housing.

After reading the book Evicted, we discussed how our clients face the same barriers even though we are in a rural area. We had conversation on how to provide better housing services to clients by building stronger relationships with property managers in our community.

The HousingIowa Conference discussed The Keys to Effective Low Barrier Shelter. The biggest piece we took from this training was that statement that 'longer shelter stays do not result in more successful permanent housing, and can actually make it harder to live alone'. With this information, we changed the focus of some conversations with clients, because "If you're not talking about housing, you're having the wrong conversations."

4. a. In the past year, describe your agency's activities/engagement/involvement with one or more local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) about implementing a homeless admission preference in their written policies for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) or Public Housing programs:

By meeting with our PHA in Mahaska County, they have developed a housing preference for our clients that are victims of crime. We also meet with all of the Public Housing Authorities in our 12 county area on a regular basis. We work with them to understand the need for a housing preference for homeless individuals. Attached is the form we use for our local PHA, as well as our Outreach documentation to show meetings.

4. a. Please attach documentation to verify, such as an email chain or meeting notes.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74770101/510752509/74770101_pha_outreach.pdf

4. b. In the past year, describe your agency's activities/engagement/involvement with local affordable housing providers (e.g. multifamily assisted housing owners, PHAs, Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments, or local low-income housing programs) about implementing a Move On strategy (Informational resource:

Our agency has been continuously working with Greenway Apartments, a local subsidized housing unit, to provide permanent housing to homeless individuals in our community. In this Move On strategy we have been able to work with the property manager to create a form that allows individuals in our shelter and transitional housing units to move farther up on the waiting list because of their homeless status. With this form we have been able to successfully move individuals out of homelessness quickly and into a stable living environment.

<https://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Moving-On-Chapter-6-Final.pdf> f):

4. b. Please attach documentation to verify, such as an email chain or meeting notes. https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74770192/510752509/74770192_greenway_preferential_housing_form.pdf

5. In the past year, to what extent has your agency taken steps locally to educate communities on the issues of homelessness: (e.g. decriminalization of homelessness engaging local policymakers, law enforcement, or business leaders; implementing community plan)?

We had many events during Homelessness and Hunger Awareness week in November 2018. We had displays in public libraries, screening and discussion of the movie "Storied Streets" at four locations, a reading of "The Teddy Bear" for young children at a library, and multiple toilet paper drives at local schools. We did these things to bring awareness to the issue of homelessness in our communities.

We also attend monthly meetings of our local Homelessness Coalition. This is a volunteer organization that is made up of local professionals, community members, and previously homeless individuals that work to provide support to homeless individuals and to bring awareness to the community.

6. In the past year, to what extent has your agency taken steps locally to prevent the discharge of persons from local systems of care (foster care, health care, mental health care, correctional facilities) into homelessness?

Jen is a member of our local Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. They meet bimonthly to discuss the needs of individuals that are receiving services for their mental health needs. Members of our local court systems, schools, and homeless providers attend. We work to make sure that their needs are being met, without them becoming homeless.

7. a. Did your agency participate in the street (unsheltered) count in counties served by your project and how?

We did not. We only participated in the sheltered count.

7. b. Did your agency submit the PIT/HIC information for your projects by the set submission deadline? If not, why?

Yes. Our data was submitted on 2/15/19 by Shawn Grundey.

8. List at least one representative of your project participate in the April 2019 Annual Meeting of Iowa Balance of State CoC Grantees. Describe any special participation your agency performed in regards to the meeting.

Jen Rice
Brenda Bash
Abby Foertsch
Shawn Grundey

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

9. a. Has this project completed it's first grant full grant cycle? (i.e. 1st year renewal with end date after application date?)

Yes

9. b. Project grant year end-date completed:

Sep 30, 2018

9. c. Grant amount:	36855.00
9. d. Total funds expended:	36855.00
9. e. Funds remaining (unexpended funds):	0.00
9. f. Unexpended funds % (unexpended funds/grant amount):	0.00
APR Sage Submission Requirement (days)	90
APR Deadline in SAGE:	Dec 29, 2018
10. a. Date APR submitted to HUD in SAGE:	Dec 20, 2018
10. b. Did your project meet the 90-day requirement?	Yes
11. a. Has HUD monitored the project within the past two years?	No
12. a. Failure to participate in supportive services and/or failure to make progress on a service plan:	Yes
12. b. Loss of income or failure to improve income:	No
12. c. Active substance abuse:	No
12. d. Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project's geographic area:	No
12. e. Ensure that every effort is made to help participants transition to other housing options when continuation in this project is jeopardized or about to expire?	Yes
12. f. Attach the project's written termination policy. The effective date must be evident on the policy.	https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74776944/510752509/74776944_termination_policies_and_procedure.pdf
13. a. Transportation assistance is provided to clients to attend mainstream benefit appointments, employment training, or jobs.	True

13. b. At least semi-annual follow-ups are attempted with participants after project exit to ensure that mainstream benefits are received and renewed (and for RRH projects, to verify that housing stability is maintained) for a period of X years.	True
13. c. Annual interim reviews with current clients are being completed with 30 days of anniversary date to check on client well-being and update all relevant data including: income, disability status, health care, etc.	True
13. d. Project participants have access to SSI/SSDI technical assistance provided by the applicant, a sub-recipient, or partner agency.	True
14. Did the number of clients served by your project achieve or exceed your estimated levels of service when you last applied/renewed this grant? Explain, success/difficulties.	We exceeded the number we estimated. One major reason for this was that our local PHA was able to quickly move individuals through their wait list. Clients were receiving their approval letter from the PHA as quickly as one week after applying. This allowed clients to successfully move into permanent housing much quicker than anticipated, allowing us to serve more clients in our transitional housing.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE/EVALUATION

Attach "2019 BOS CoC Renewal Application Report" from HMIS/DVIMS	https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74778606/510752509/74778606_2019_bos_coc_renewal_service_point_report.pdf
15. Does the agency maintain an average of 14 days or less between clients' project start and entry into HMIS?	No- Currently our agency maintains an average of 19 days or less between clients' project start and entry into HIMS due to only having one advocate able to enter data into HMIS. This can create barriers when we are short staffed or advocates frequently being out of the office. To bring down the current number we have implemented a system where we have created a specific location where all client files go to be entered into HMIS, as well as email chains between advocates to ensure all information has been entered. Thus far, the new system has shown to be effective when entering data.
16. Does your agency maintain an average data completeness score of less than 2% missing data?	YES

17. TH: Does your project sufficiently prioritize literally homeless clients or those fleeing domestic violence? YES

20. TH: Is the total exit destination error less than 15%? YES

21. TH: Percentage of all adult participants who increased total income from entry to exit? YES- We had 60% of our clients increase their income.

22. TH: Percentage of exits to Permanent Housing? Yes- 90% of our clients exited to permanent housing.

23. TH: Chronic population served in project? No- We give all of our clients information about our Transitional Housing program and ask if they would like to apply. Due to having such a high turnover of clients, we did not have individuals that meet the definition of chronically homeless applying for our transitional housing program during this funding cycle. We continue to offer this program to clients that meet the definition of chronically homeless and prioritize their application when we have program openings.

BONUS QUESTION

***Bonus - Describe any specific services provided by your project specifically for youth/mental health/substance abuse:** We have a great working relationship with our local mental health provider. If we have a client that is needing emergency services, we are able to call their intake worker directly or the director, and they prioritize seeing our clients, usually within 2 hours. They will send us the intake paperwork in advance, so we can assist the client with filling it out. This allows us to minimize barriers that many people in our area face when seeking mental health services. Without our referral, clients have had to wait up to six weeks for an appointment.
