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

APPLICANT NAME AND INFORMATION

Organization Name: Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc.

Renewal Project Name: Eastern Iowa Rapid Rehousing

Project Name(s) as appearing in HMIS/DVIMS: Eastern Iowa Rapid Rehousing 1

Grant Identifier: IA0100L7D011802

Project Type: Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

Projected number of clients to be served in renewal grant period: 22

Anticipated Renewal Amount: 100629.00

Verify current registration in federal System for Award Management: Yes

DUNS #: 39311399

Counties Served by Project: Linn

Address of Administrative Office: 1515 Hawkeye Drive
Hiawatha, IA 52233

Primary Contact Name: Heather Harney

Primary Contact Phone: (319) 393-7811 ext. 1056

Primary Contact Email: hharney@hacap.org

Secondary Contact Name: Jordan Dumolien

Secondary Contact Phone: (319) 393-7811

Secondary Contact Email: jdumolien@hacap.org

THRESHOLD ASSURANCES

Having too little or no income: NOT a Barrier

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: (https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/1991/equal-access-to-housing-final-rule/)	NOT a Barrier
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/3367170/74759947/510790550/74759947_rapid_rehousing_prioritization_of_assistance.docx

CONTINUUM OF CARE PARTICIPATION

1. a. What percentage of your clients served do you feel were referred through coordinated entry? Explain your response.	The Eastern Iowa Rapid Rehousing project served 100% of households that were referred through coordinated entry. The Linn/Benton/Jones CSR was operational with the pull list in late fall of 2017. The project did not start until January 1 2018 and was able to pull all clients served from the CE list.
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.	The Linn/Benton/Jones region was the first region online in early fall of 2017. The region had been piloting the Iowa Balance of State coordinated entry system prior to that for over a year. HACAP in partnership with Waypoint and other homeless service agencies was using a centralized intake line for placements in shelter prior to the coordinated entry live date. Currently housing providers meet weekly to pull names from the HMIS and DVMIS lists followed by case conferencing. Over 30 people each week meet, HACAP participates weekly and tries to pull at least one name every week from the list.

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, Heather Harney and David Hagen have been attending ICH meetings historically and over the last year.

Three of these dates include:

November 16th, 2018

April 4th, 2019

May 17th, 2019

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.

HUD Peer to Peer- Des Moines, June 13-14

HUD field office reviewed specific requirements of CoC and ESG grants, topics regarding rural outreach, coordinated entry, and veterans were also relevant

Heather Harney, Jordan Dumolien, Rachel Carter, Nicole Wise

VA Homeless webinars (monthly)

Different topics ranging from suicide prevention, mental health, community collaboration, shared housing, system mapping, etc are discussed monthly on webinars

Heather, Rachel

Rapid Rehousing Institute- San Diego, October 16-18

Different techniques and solutions to the affordable housing crisis were discussed and debated. The VA and HUD spoke about their views on ending homelessness and how all programs can work together to achieve results.

Heather

Rapid Resolution Meetings-various dates in Chicago

Learning out the future of VA and HUD's homeless diversion plans and how to plan community coordination around diversion and coordinated entry.

Heather, Rachel, Ginger, Debbie

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

1. Rapid Resolution Meetings

Although sponsored by the VA for use in VA homeless programs the experience was very useful to begin to think about how HUD may adopt these principles in the near future for CoC and ESG programs. How diversion techniques can be more robust in coordinated entry systems is something that regions and the Balance of State CoC should be looking at in the future.

2. Rapid Rehousing Institute

At the rapid rehousing institute HACAP's programs started looking for at long term housing sustainability for the clients that are placed in units and like about using shared housing and other techniques to assist with housing stability. HACAP has used practices in its current RRH programs.

3. HUD Peer to Peer

After attending the HUD Peer to Peer, updates to policies and procedures were made to all HACAP rapid rehousing programs. Also networking and asking questions to HUD representatives and other providers was extremely useful in program design.

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:

1. Currently Cedar Rapids already has a homeless admissions preference in the PHA admission plan. This was implemented over 4 years ago and HACAP was involved in the steering committee with the city to figure out logistics of the preference. HACAP (Heather Harney) and other community providers continue to work with the City in order to refine the process and determine ways that the PHA could pull directly from the list or use VI-SPDAT scores to further refine the prioritization of Housing Choice Vouchers.

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

2. The Eastern Iowa area has very little CoC funded permanent supportive housing at this time to implement the strategy. Programs are just beginning to come online in the area. Discussions in the communities at this time are limited to work with the PHAs and local low income housing providers. Informally HACAP has spoken with the PHA in Cedar Rapids about how to prioritize vouchers for those most in need who are already homeless in the community for long term housing support, including the homeless. Applications for Section 8 are only open for one day every 2-3 years. Although homeless are a preference it drastically limits the availability of vouchers to that demographic as their homeless status is consistently in flux.

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)?

3. HACAP staff participate and are on the committee for the Stand Down in Cedar Rapids. This occurs every fall as a community outreach and educational event on homelessness in the Linn County area. The event is open to all community members and specific services are targeted to members who are homeless. Staff also attend the Day of the Hill in Des Moines every year and engage local policy makers regarding homeless services and needs in their communities. Heather Harney and Dusty Noble are also members of the Public Awareness committee for the Linn County CoC and plan on becoming more active members over the next year. HACAP publishes best practices in the field and other homeless advocacy information on its social media and educates the agency board on barriers for those in the community who are homeless and affordable housing issues in the community. Heather Harney also sits on the newly developed (October of 2018) Affordable Housing Commission for the Cedar Rapids City Council.

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?

4. HACAP outreach staff work with the social workers at both St. Luke's and Mercy Hospital in Des Moines regarding placement into housing after discharge. HACAP has affordable housing units that are prioritized in the community for those that are homeless. HACAP has worked with the both corrections and the health care system to get applications to them for individuals they feel make be exiting into a homeless situation. This partnership has resulted in 5 households that would have been homeless placed directly into permanent housing with HACAP after discharge.

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

Yes, Jordan Dumolien and Brianna O'Hara participated in the street count in Linn County, Iowa. Both were on street outreach teams looking for homeless households overnight in the Cedar Rapids area. Jordan and Dusty also worked with Waypoint to lead the count for Linn County. HACAP had previously lead the street count for many years and worked with Waypoint to transition leadership from HACAP to Waypoint as the lead agency for the coordinated services region.

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

Yes

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.

Yes, Heather Harney attended the April 2019 CoC Annual Meeting. She participated by asking questions and providing feedback during the process.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

9. a. Has this project completed its 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:	Dec 31, 2018
9. c. Grant amount:	96741.00
9. d. Total funds expended:	86759.87
9. e. Funds remaining (unexpended funds):	9981.13
9. f. Unexpended funds % (unexpended funds/grant amount):	10.32
9. g. Your project had 5% or more of unexpended funds, please explain why funds were not expended. If this is a new grant explain you projected spend down date and if you are on track for full expenditure of funds.	The project was not able to spend all the rental assistance funds that were allocated. The determining factor was households towards the end of the program year took longer to house than anticipated. This resulted in fewer months of rental assistance and fewer rental deposits being paid out than expected by year end. Linn County does have the need for the rental assistance and HACAP does not anticipate this occurring again. In addition, HACAP has learned from HUD that if program service numbers have been met rental assistance funds can be used to pay for staff time in conducting rental assistance activities. HACAP will use this flexibility in the future to ensure all rental assistance funds are expended.
APR Sage Submission Requirement (days)	90
APR Deadline in SAGE:	Mar 31, 2019
10. a. Date APR submitted to HUD in SAGE:	Mar 31, 2019
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:	No
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/3367170/74776944/510790550/74776944_termination_policy.docx
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.	HACAP was able to assist 72 clients with project funds last year. The estimated number of individuals served was 22 at initial application to HUD. HACAP was able to serve more individuals by securing housing that was under fair market rent and clients exiting the program before the 12 month period. HACAP anticipates being able to serve more clients than projected due to the rental market in the Linn County area and current program participants exiting the program before 12 months.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE/EVALUATION

20. RRH/PSH: Is the total exit destination error less than 10%?

The project pulls clients with the highest VI-SPDAT scores on the prioritization list with over 80% of enrolled households scoring for a permanent supportive housing intervention. Linn County has extremely limited availability for PSH and many households do not have an opportunity for the service. The project served those with high barriers and chronicity, this resulted in a larger number of clients disappearing after enrollment in the project.

22. RRH: Percentage of exits to Permanent Housing?

The project served clients with higher VI-SPDAT scores than what was in range for a rapid rehousing service intervention. Clients were enrolled with significant barriers and had a higher likelihood to disappear after enrollment or exit to jail or another non permanent housing situation.

BONUS QUESTION

***Bonus - Describe any specific services provided by your project specifically for youth/mental health/substance abuse:**

HACAP's prioritization policy specifies that our rapid rehousing programs will enroll those with the highest VI-SPDAT score if the intervention service they scored for is not available. As a consequence a vast majority of those enrolled in HACAP's rapid rehousing programs have scored for a PSH intervention and have either mental health and/or substance abuse disorder. Although HACAP does not provide these services directly the partnerships with local hospitals, mental health providers, and substance abuse providers has grown substantially over the last 2 years. HACAP hopes to continue to develop and strengthen these partnerships for the benefit of the homeless population over the next year.
