

2018-2019 BUDGET QUESTION

Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

REQUEST NO.: 38

REQUESTED BY: Kitchen

DATE REQUESTED: 8/15/18

DATE POSTED: 9/8/18

REQUEST: What is being done for tenant and homeowner protection as a means of avoiding homelessness in the FY 2019 budget?

RESPONSE: Below is a list of all homelessness efforts included in the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department's FY 2019 proposed budget.

#	Efforts to Help Tenants Avoid Homelessness	Approximate Budget	Funding Source
1	Homelessness Coordinator: Planner Senior with NHCD coordinates departmental homelessness efforts.	FY 2018-2019: \$15,000 (¼ of FTE position)	General Fund
2	Rental Housing Development Assistance (RHDA): NHCD coordinates the funding from a variety of sources to finance construction or preservation of affordable housing for low-income households. Funding sources include Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and HOME Investment Partnership, as well as local funds. Funding is restricted to households at or below 50% MFI. Funding for Permanent Supportive Housing is prioritized within the program.	FY 2018-2019: \$3,755,612	HOME, CDBG, GO Bonds
3	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA): Contract with Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) to assist eligible, very low-income households to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency by providing monthly rental and utilities assistance.	FY 2018-2019: \$527,000	HOME

4	Rent Availability Payment Pilot Program: Contract with Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) to assist formerly homeless persons to find suitable long-term housing by filling the gap between cost of rent at a given property and the amount of rental assistance or other income available to the client to be served. FY 2017-2018 goal is 62 clients served.	FY 2018-2019: \$200,000 (currently being contemplated for extension)	HTF (Fee-in-lieu)
5	Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative: Contract with ECHO to address homelessness in Austin by building on existing and creating new partnerships with government entities, committees, service providers, and private property owners and managers to expand the stock of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units.	FY 2018-2019: \$160,000 for future ECHO FTE housing navigator for rapid rehousing.	General Fund
6	Low Barrier Permanent Supportive Housing Voucher Program: Contract with ECHO using Downtown Density Bonus fee in lieu funding to address rental housing needs for people experiencing chronic homelessness. ECHO has identified 24 individuals in need of PSH vouchers.	FY 2018-19: \$294,624 (dependent on program evaluation and available funding)	HTF (Fee-in-lieu)
7	Salvation Army Contract: Contract to assist, eligible very low-income households to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency by providing housing and start-up expenses of security deposits for utilities. Goal for FY2017-2018 is 67 referrals.	FY 2018-2019: \$40,000	HOME, General Fund
8	Tenants' Right Assistance: NHCD contracts with the Austin Tenants' Council to provide services to low- and moderate-income tenants, including direct counseling, mediation with landlords, public education, and addressing fair housing complaints.	FY 2018-2019: \$288,729	CDBG, General Fund
9	Architectural Barrier Removal (ABR) Renter: AHFC provides Architectural Barrier Removal (ABR) services to enable low-income tenants with mobility impairments to increase their mobility and self-sufficiency and remain in their homes.	FY 2018-2019: \$185,000	CDBG

10	Tenant Relocation & Demolition: Contract to study tenant relocation and demolition.	FY 2018-2019: \$165,000	General Fund
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#	Efforts to Help Homeowners Avoid Homelessness	Approximate Budget	Funding Source
1	Minor Home Repair: Austin Area Urban League is the designated subrecipient for this program that provides minor home repairs (up to \$5,000) for low-income homeowners.	FY 2018-2019: \$1,000,000	CDBG
2	GO Repair!: AHFC contracts with seven nonprofit organizations to provide home repairs up to \$15,000 per home for qualified low-income homeowners	FY 2018-2019: \$2,000,000	GO Bonds
3	Home Repair Loan Program: AHFC provides home repairs (up to \$75,000 per home) to bring homes up to code and to provide increased safety and health for low-income homeowners.	FY 2018-2019: \$841,346	HOME, CDBG
4.	Architectural Barrier Removal (ABR) Owner: AHFC provides Architectural Barrier Removal (ABR) services to enable low-income homeowners with mobility impairments to increase their mobility and self-sufficiency and remain in their homes.	FY 2018-2019: \$1,325,000	CDBG

#	Homelessness Effort	Approximate Budget	Funding Source
1	Pay for Success Initiative: NHCD's role in implementing this project will continue to be providing funding opportunities and advocacy for creation of PSH units.	No monetary investment other than FTE coordination.	N/A
2	PSH Leadership Council: City Council created this group on PSH Finance to help meet the 350-unit goal (Resolution No. 20100325-053) in 2010 and 400-unit goal (Resolution No. 20141002-043) in 2014. NHCD has been a member since group inception.	No monetary investment other than FTE coordination.	N/A
3	Emergency Rehousing due to Code Notice to Vacate: Emergency funding allocated for emergency placement in hotels due to "Notice to Vacates" issued by Code that resulted in homelessness.	Unfunded mandate that diverts funding from planned projects in the Housing Trust Fund	N/A