



January 14, 2014

Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care
CoC Committee of the Iowa Council on Homelessness
2015 Grand Avenue
Des Moines IA 50312

Re: City of Dubuque/Phoenix Housing Shelter Plus Care

Please accept this appeal for the Renewal Project Application, Phoenix Housing Shelter Plus Care. The Phoenix Housing project is designed to provide rental assistance for hard-to-serve homeless persons with disabilities. The program also provides supportive services on a long term basis for the individuals and families receiving assistance with their rents.

While we understand the applications were ranked and recommended based upon the expenditures during the past year, we are seeking an exception and requesting the full amount of rental assistance be funded to the extent possible.

We had submitted the previous year application expecting to serve 18 units that were available for homeless households with disabilities. In fact, we were actually able to serve 26 households. When reviewing unspent grant monies, it is difficult to realize that the unspent funds were a result of increased tenant rents. The increased tenant rents were a result of the supportive services households receive while participating in the program. The households were able to improve their financial resources by obtaining education, employment opportunities and working with a case manager for job retention. Reviewing the year from this perspective provides an entirely different view and a more positive reaction to the program. The average monthly tenant share of rent was \$2,117 which resulted in approximately \$25,406 in grant monies which remained unspent.

Recognizing that households have improved their financial status and the ability to reach out within community organizations and agencies, we have increased the program size for the current grant to expend more of the rental assistance. Our goal is to expend all grant dollars allocated for rental assistance by closely monitoring dollar amounts each month and expanding program participation to address the need of homeless individuals and families with disabilities within the City of Dubuque.

Our concern with the reduction is that we have expanded our program for the current year to expend all grant dollars and may not be able to continue ongoing rental assistance for those persons currently on the program at the end of our grant year. We are currently serving 31 persons within 24 units compared to the 18 units as the basis of the grant. A reduction in allotted rental assistance will most likely result in termination of individuals and families rental assistance along with their supportive services. The most likely result will be that some individuals and/or families may become homelessness again without the support of the Phoenix Housing Program. This is a major concern for the people we serve who have shown so much progress.

In summary, the basis of our appeal of the dollar amounts allocated is to prevent individuals and families from facing future homelessness and for continued support making permanent housing a reality for the individuals/families working so hard to improve their lives. Therefore, we appreciate your consideration for recommendation of full funding for the Phoenix Housing Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alvin Nash', written in a cursive style.

Alvin Nash
Director