



May 18, 2015

To: Executive Committee of Iowa Council on Homelessness

Re: Appeal for 2015 Renewal Project Narrative from Opening Doors

Opening Doors has submitted their renewal project narrative for the Maria House project. Opening Doors is appealing the following items that were reviewed and ranked:

Performance Section:

12) Exits to permanent destinations:

Opening Doors received 7/10 due to reporting limited affordable housing in the area and Section 8 being unable to fund for sometime in the future.

Opening Doors reported limited affordable housing in the area and Section 8 being unable to fund for sometime in the future. However, Opening Doors is actively working with a developer in our community to create more permanent supportive housing in order to help with this gap. Renovations of the former school for the permanent supportive housing project are slated to start this fall.

Continuum of Care Participation Section:

13) Annual Performance Report (APR) Submission:

Opening Doors received 1/2 due to reporting the submission would be on time.

Opening Doors operating year ends on April 30th of each year. The APR is to be submitted after the end of the operating year. The narrative was due by April 24th, therefore it was stated that the APR would be submitted on time. In addition, we have 90 days to submit the APR and we have never had a late submission.

15) Has any representative been an active participant in Iowa Council on Homelessness committees and work groups?

Opening Doors received 0/5 due to reviewer stating there was no participation.

We always have our Program Directors, in addition to our Executive Director; participate in the Iowa Council on Homelessness meetings. Our Executive Director, Michelle Brown, has been a member of the

planning advisory committee for the past 19 months. In this committee Michelle assisted with developing and completing the standards for quality homeless program throughout the state of Iowa. Michelle Brown has also attempted to apply to become a voting member of the Iowa Council on Homelessness a couple of years ago, but was informed that there were no seats available. One of our full time program staff plans to apply to become a voting member of the Iowa Council on Homelessness in order to represent the Northeast Iowa region once an opening occurs.

Budget and Capacity Section:

16) HUD Grand Monitoring

Opening Doors received 1/2 for this section with no comment.

Opening Doors has not had any HUD project monitoring in the past 3 years.

20) Spending History

Opening Doors received 8/10 and 7/10 from both reviewers for this section with no comments.

Opening Doors has always expended 100% of our CoC HUD funds.

Thank you for taking time to consider our appeal. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jessica Bleile

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