

Kittitas County Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee
205 W. 5th Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Nancy Goodloe,
Chair

March 23, 2010

Cathy Bambrick,
County Representative

Kittitas County
Board of County Commissioners
205 west 5th Avenue
Ellensburg WA 98926

Kelly Thielen
Community Volunteer

RE: Homeless and Affordable Housing Grants

Fennelle Miller,
City of Ellensburg
Representative

Dear Commissioners:

Deb Thompson,
Community Volunteer

I am writing to let you know that the Kittitas County Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee ("Committee") has met and reviewed two applications for grants from the County's ESSHB 2060 (affordable housing) and 2163 (homeless) funds. Both applications meet the state requirements for the funding, and both applications support the Kittitas County 10-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness. For this grant cycle, the Committee allocated from the Homeless fund and \$50,000 from the Affordable Housing fund.

Charline Bond,
Community Volunteer

Below is a synopsis of information about each request, along with the Committee's recommendation. More information is available in the grant packets for each of these requests on file in your office.

A. EnTrust – Rapid Intervention Emergency Transitional Housing (RIETH)

Amount requested: \$150,000 (\$100,000 from Homeless funds, \$50,000 from Affordable Housing Funds)

Project description: RIETH is a housing, life skills, and case management program targeting families and individuals who are presently ineligible for other housing programs in Kittitas County. Proposed to serve up to 25 individuals and families, this program will work in conjunction with other programs currently operating in Kittitas County, and will utilize existing partnerships with other agencies, including the Housing Authority of Kittitas County, Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health, HopeSource, Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services, etc. - with the primary goals of preventing homelessness and providing affordable housing.

Because the RIETH program provides a "last stop" for persons who do not qualify for assistance elsewhere, this program will serve the types of disenfranchised populations outlined in the Homelessness Prevention Plan. Specifically, people with former substance abuse and mental health issues, people who have bad rental and/or credit histories, can be served by this program, and persons for whom no other housing option is available. The program combines rental assistance for 25 people and/or families for 6 months, along with intensive case management and referral to the entire suite of other programs for which they might be eligible. This program deals with a different population than the grant EnTrust received in October 2009. That grant targeted persons being released from incarceration.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends full funding of this project.

Matching funds: \$100,750.08 from contracts with partner agencies

Grant funding for two years (\$150,000 spans the two year period)

If funded as per the above recommendation, this grant would utilize the entirety of the funding made available in the 2060 and 2163 funds for this grant period.

B. Habitat House 11

Amount requested: \$100,000

Matching funds: \$63, 500 in-kind labor; \$10,500 contributions

Grant funding for one year

Project description: House 11 is the next house on the list for Habitat for Humanity to build. As with other Habitat projects, this project involves the construction of a single family house – matched by “sweat equity” from the recipient family and others. This project is located in Roslyn.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends not funding this project.

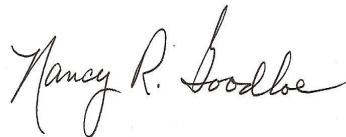
The projects for Habitat definitely add to the inventory of affordable housing in this county, and that is something that is needed. However, the amount of funds it takes to build one house for one family is significant when those funds come from the Affordable Housing fund we have. For this particular grant cycle, we allocated \$50,000 from the AH fund, not enough to meet the needs in this grant proposal. After considerable discussion, the committee felt that utilizing the \$50,000 allocation from the Affordable Housing fund to provide 25 individuals and families with housing and case management addressed the goals set forth in the Homeless Plan in a more significant manner than partially funding one Habitat house.

A Special Hearing to meet with grantee representatives is set for April 6th, 1:30 pm in the Commissioner's Auditorium. Grantee agencies will be notified by BOCC staff.

Legal counsel, Zera Lowe, will present a draft contract for use with these grants at the April 6th, 2010 Agenda Session. A Resolution to approve funding will be on the agenda as well.

I want to thank the Board of Commissioners for your support through this process. The Committee is pleased with the revised grant process to utilize the 2163 and 2060 funds in our county, and we are looking forward to continued work with you on other projects recommended in the 10-year Plan.

Cordially,



Nancy R. Goodloe, ED.D.

Chair, Kittitas County Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee

Cc Committee members
 Zera Lowe
 Judy Pless, Auditor's office

