

## KITTITAS COUNTY HOMELESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Nancy Goodloe, Chair  
Member at Large

David Miller,  
City of Ellensburg Representative

Alisa Spieckerman,  
County Representative

Jack Frost,  
Community Representative

Kelly Thielen  
Member at Large

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 1, 2013

**TO:** Kittitas County Board of Commissioners  
205 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

**RE:** Spring 2013 Grant Applications and Recommendations  
Total amount requested: \$271,500  
Amount recommended for funding: \$232,900

In February 2013 an RFP was issued by Kittitas County for up to \$200,000 for the 2163 Homeless Funds. Deadline for applications was March 8, 2011. The Board of County Commissioners approved a recommendation from the Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee (HAHC) to offer up to \$300,000 in grant dollars for 2013. The intention of the Committee was to have two grant cycles in 2013, awarding \$200,000 in the spring and then \$100,000 in the summer.

Three applications were received for the spring grant period. These applications contained requests in the amount of \$271,500.

At our regularly monthly meeting, March 14, 2011 and then again on March 18, the Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee members reviewed their grading matrices and discussed each application thoroughly. Representatives from the three applying agencies were present on March 14 to answer questions. We received additional information from two of these agencies before the March 18 meeting. The recommendations below reflect our best thinking for the use of the Homeless funds in 2013.

Below are our recommendations.

1. **Homeless Assistance Program** – This application represents a partnership between three county agencies, all of which play an integral part in homeless prevention – EnTrust Community Services, ADDS, and the Kittitas County Housing Authority managing the Homeless Hotline.
  - a. EnTrust's project provides housing assistance and case management/advocacy for individuals and families in Kittitas County that

experience significant barriers to housing and, for one reason or another, cannot qualify for other existing county programs. These individuals/families are truly on the fringes of our society and, most of the time, do not qualify for assistance from other county agencies because of their history and backgrounds. EnTrust also provides services to a client base that would not be classified as on the fringes, but these clients are not the majority of their service program. Over the years, EnTrust has grown its partnerships for referrals in Kittitas County to include the FISH food bank, ASPEN, the 24/7 Hotline, and now will be working with ADDS to provide job training for clients in the ARM program as well as to receive referrals from ADDS for other services when their clients need the support that EnTrust provides. The number of individuals and families helped by this program has grown consistently over the past four years. The Committee continues to support the services provided by this agency. EnTrust is requesting funding for salaries, operations, and rental assistance. EnTrust brings \$209,561 in matching and in-kind funds for this grant request.

- b. **24/7 Homeless Housing Hotline** – This service was created three years ago by the Homeless and Affordable Housing committee to fill a gap in services on the weekends. The services also provide meaningful assistance during holiday periods when other agencies in the county are closed. The Committee continues to support this service in the county. Funding for this agency includes staffing and motel vouchers.
- c. **Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services (ADDS)** – In 2012, ADDS purchased and renovated a house next to their offices on Cle Elum street in Ellensburg. Titled ARM (ADDS Recovering Men's Sober Housing Program), this program is the first of its kind in Kittitas County and is something that the Committee as well as other groups in our county have been supporting for several years. The Committee strongly supports this program. The grant request is for rental assistance for one year to support ADDS in developing its client base. EnTrust will provide job training programs for this clientele.

**Recommendation:** The HAHC supports the partnerships and collaboration present in any multi-agency grant. The total request for HAP was for \$172,500. After a thorough review of costs and through discussions with EnTrust officials, the Committee is recommending the grant be funded at \$142,900. The cuts to this request reflect rental assistance adjustments to the ARM program and Emergency Vouchers managed by the 24/7 Hotline. Both of these budget items were originally presented because the grant was being set up for a two-year funding cycle. When the decision to revert to a one-year grant was made, the changes to these two allocations were overlooked. The Committee found this discrepancy and is making the changes that are needed. The HAHC is recommending that \$10,000 be removed from the EnTrust allocation and recommends that this cut be made in rental assistance for clients. However, if EnTrust can find other ways to absorb this cut, the Committee is open to this strategy. Adjusted totals for the rental assistance/emergency vouchers should be:

EnTrust Rental Assistance – Public = \$56,000, reduced from \$66,000 (or a \$10,000 cut from other areas of the budget if EnTrust prefers to go this way)

Rent Assistance – ARM = \$12,000, reduced from \$24,000

Emergency vouchers = \$8,400, reduced from \$16,000

- 2. **Kittitas Valley Community Land Trust** – This request is for a second year of funding for infrastructure/start-up costs for the Land Trust. The Committee

supported this application last year and is recommending full funding for this request for one more year. The amount of work accomplished by Land Trust staff in less than one year is remarkable, and the Committee salutes the staff for the partnerships and collaborations built in a very short period of time. The application reflects strong efforts to build sustainability for the Land Trust through grant applications that have been filed as well as individual memberships that are being sought. What is not reflected in the grant is the strong partnership with the City of Ellensburg to begin construction on thirteen new affordable homes in 2013. As well, the Land Trust is in the process of developing a partnership with Suncadia in the Upper County for a similar project. Having a land trust in our county is an important strategy mentioned in the county's 10-year Plan to Reduce Homelessness.

**Recommendation:** The HAHC strongly supports the continuation of this grant for one more year. The grant request is for \$90,000 and includes \$8,000 to support an Americorp volunteer to provide one additional staff member to support the work needed for the Land Trust. We believe this agency can achieve sustainability given more time to implement its sustainability plan.

### **3. Ending Homelessness Together – People for People**

This application represents the third year for a funding request from this agency. The request is for \$9,000. In the prior two years, the HAHC has not recommended funding for the project described in the application. As well, we are not recommending funding for this year.

The Committee believes the database work and outreach outlined in the grant proposal is part of the normal book of business for this agency each day. The advocacy work suggested in the application is best done by the county agency set up to provide services for these individuals and family and strongly suggests that the 211 staff make these referrals.

**Overall:** In starting our grant work for 2012, the Committee set aside \$300,000 from the Homeless funds to allocate in this year. Toward that end, we set up this first grant cycle to include up to \$200,000 in funds. The other \$100,000 was to be allocated in August 2013. The recommendation from the HAHC is to award \$232,900 during this first grant cycle. This amount leaves \$67,000 for the August grant cycle. We will have discussions with the Auditor in July to determine if we can elevate that number to \$100,000.

We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations.

Cordially,

Members, Homeless and Affordable Housing committee