Three County CoC Ranking and Evaluation Committee Meeting

June 18, 2020, 11-12:30pm

Agenda

Present: Keleigh, Brooke, Dave, Rebecca, Justine, michele

*Dave* – hired a new CoC person, need to set up some zoom trainings, worked previously at non-profit, she knows the CoC work. it’s a full time position, has a tenant service coordinator, she comes with this but needs some training.

Applied for the funding in round 1 through the town for food and small business assistance in the DHCD ESG funds. Eviction and foreclosure funds went to Wayfinders.

Need to set up an ETO acct through DHCD and needs to understand the CE system and committee work.

*Rebecca –* attended the Racial Equity trainings, may attend one next week. Keleigh recommended the

*Justine –* obtained additional funds through the cares act, working on Environmental reviews – working on human service funding for Elizabeth Freeman and SN. rec’d $789,000..$240,000 HS, $130,000 for the Regional HA, and then some CPA funds, 350,000 in small business.

**update on site monitoring & NOFA planning updates** – Keleigh shared that we are almost half way through site monitoring visits and they are going well. Partners have worked hard to provide us with documents requested. Mostly, we are noticing that agencies don’t have policies written for these programs that meet the CoC’s expectations and that there is uncertainty in how to handle situations when clients have been in programming for a lot time and there are not required documents, like chronic homelessness, because folks were housed prior to these requirements. And, programs not having completed the environmental reviews.

Some programs really need a move on strategy, there are a few with participants that are either not provided suportive services or are not utilizing them. In these cases, these participants should be worked with to move to another housing option. Overall there is a real need to think strategically about the CoC funding and where it is best allocated, but this year may not be the year with us being new collaborative applicants, and with COVID-19 affecting everything.

Rebecca mentioned that this might be a moment in time to shift people. As a continuum could coordinate this. Perhaps getting housing authorities.

**Overview from discussion last meeting** – performance measures, priority populations, geographic coverage etc for renewal projects.

**new project planning/customization -**

**Recommendations –** timely expenditures for funding, eligibility, record keeping/financial audit, HMIS – open this up to agencies that would..instead of are. do they have policies and procedures around data collection? Think about keeping the ranking similar between the two YHDP and CoC and then an addendum for the

Best practices? - how do you get points for this? Rebecca said that hampden CoC has a great application and threshold.

**Brooke mentioned that as part of the selection team –** the points system really valued experience in agencies that were really used to doing things, we should be thinking about expanding our scope, in terms of equity, we want to be able to provide opportunities for agencies “transferrable skills” from one type of experience to another.

**Rebecca suggested that we give opportunities to provide info about how their other experiences would support it.**

**Geographic coverage/impact –** limited services in various areas, the CoC community really wants to see places like North County or the North Quabbin. Should this be looked at differently?

**Priority populations –** people of color, GLBTQ community – disproportionate impact. currently, cannot prioritize the vulnerability tool for protected classes, butHUD is changing the viewpoint. but we need to think about insitituation racism and it’s impact on the health and economics of people of color. Can we be considering this as a priority for the housing program’s applications? this is an opportunity to be sure we are including racial equity language in our RFP and lead a way around this. expectations of outreach to various populations – incorporating how they are going to “serve” specific populations

**Is the CoC’s protectionism approach working?**  Not really. Agencies cannot get in to the system. It is really complicated and hard to train, convince people it is worth it. Its hard on the adminsitrators of the CoC, we have to do a great deal of outreach.

**Really do a bonus for racial equity in our bonus project, if the NOFA allows.**

Ranking and Evaluation timeline..July Board meeting – after the board meeting we need to be

Discussed the process, and determined that this team **will meet on the 24th prior to the board meeting**. Keleigh will present a doodle poll for the board to plan that meeting within the last week of July.

Keleigh will work on updating the criteria for new applications and send around to the team to consider. Will also let the committee know if we suddenly need to respond to something HUD releases.