

## Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care

### FY20 Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Application Narrative Responses

**1. Please describe any significant changes in your Continuum of Care/Balance of State local planning group since the FY 19 application. (leadership and/or agency changes, point-in-time count data, trends, and any information you would like to share with DHCD) - Limit response to no more than one page.**

In the FY19 application, the Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care (CoC) selected Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) to administer targeted prevention services and coordinated assessment for the community. However, in the course of finalizing FY19 budgets, NVFS determined that it would not be viable for them to administer these programs. The community decided to implement short-term contracts for these programs for the first four months of the fiscal year to avoid a lapse in services while the CoC solicited for and selected new providers for these programs. From July-October 2018, NVFS administered targeted prevention and Loisann's Hope House, Micah Ministries, and Thurman Brisben Center jointly administered coordinated assessment. Using the CoC Board-approved funding process, the CoC selected Loisann's Hope House to take over the administration of both targeted prevention and coordinated assessment, including hiring a full-time Coordinated Entry and Diversion Specialist, starting November 2018. This is the first time in several years that the CoC has had a full-time position dedicated to coordinated assessment.

On January 23, 2019, the CoC conducted the annual Point-In-Time (PIT) count, administering surveys to all persons experiencing homelessness throughout the region. The survey found 221 persons experiencing homelessness across the region on the night of the PIT count. This is a 10 percent (21 person) increase over the 2018 PIT count. The increase seen in the 2019 PIT count is attributed to an increase in the number of persons utilizing emergency shelter on the night of the count. (There was no change between the 2018 and 2019 unsheltered count.) In September 2018, Loisann's Hope House added an additional 3 family units to their emergency shelter inventory. In addition, the streamlined coordinated assessment process overseen by the Coordinated Entry and Diversion Specialist has made it easier for those in need of shelter to be connected to a vacant bed more quickly. The average utilization rate for all emergency shelters during the 2019 PIT count was 85% compared to 76% during the 2018 PIT count.

Over the past year, the CoC has continued to refine the homelessness response system and work toward the goals of the 10 Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. Major accomplishments include refining the coordinated assessment and housing prioritization processes, convening a SOAR Working Group, reinstating the Discharge Planning Working Group, securing local funds for the Unsheltered Homelessness Initiative and coordinated assessment, securing Housing Trust Fund funding for youth rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing case management, refining the FRCoC Funding Policies & Procedures, drafting project performance standards, and rebranding the CoC.

**2. Funding changes. If the CoC/LPG is requesting to move money between activities and/or agencies please provide details about the process and the rationale for the request.**

The FRCoC determined the service providers and funding request for this application through the process outlined in the FRCoC Funding Policies & Procedures, which governs the solicitation, review, selection, and ranking of projects for funding through collaborative applications in order to ensure an objective, transparent, and competitive funding process.

On April 12, 2019 CoC staff released the 2019 VHSP Renewal Application Local Notice of Funding Availability. Notice was posted to the CoC website and distributed to all CoC members via email.

CoC staff hosted an information session for all potential applicants on April 16, 2019 to review the local Notice of Funding Availability and outline the process for the funding cycle.

The Funding & Performance Committee, with CoC staff support, developed VHSP application forms and scoring sheets; these documents were approved by the CoC Board at its meeting on April 18, 2019.

Following this approval, CoC staff posted updated applications and scoring sheets to the FRCoC website and distributed them to the full CoC membership.

The FRCoC Funding Policies & Procedures, FRCoC 2019 Policy Priorities, local NOFA, application forms, and scoring sheets are included as an attachment to this application.

Project applications were submitted to CoC staff by April 26, 2019 at noon. CoC staff submitted all project applications to the Funding & Performance Committee to review and score individually using Board-approved scoring sheets.

The Funding & Performance Committee met on April 30, 2019 to finalize application scores and rank projects. Committee members compiled scores and comments to complete one final scoring sheet for each application. The Committee then determined for each project application whether to accept the application at the full amount, accept the application at a reduced amount, or reject the application. Applications that were accepted were then ranked based on project type, project application score, population group served by the project, levels of unmet need, and other factors. The renewal CoC planning project and renewal coordinated assessment project were placed at the top of the ranking per the guidance in the FRCoC Funding Policies & Procedures, as the system relies on these projects to operate. The final ranking sheet is included as an attachment to this application. Once all projects were ranked, the Funding & Performance Committee applied available funding to projects starting at the top of the list until funding was fully allocated.

CoC staff then notified each applicant of the Funding & Performance Committee's ranking recommendations and provided the completed scoring sheet for each project application. CoC staff also included specific instructions regarding the point of contact and deadline for appeals.

No appeals were submitted by the posted deadline of May 2, 2019 at noon, so the Funding & Performance Committee submitted the original ranking recommendations to the CoC Board for final approval. The CoC Board approved the recommended ranking at its meeting on May 2, 2019. CoC staff then notified each applicant of the CoC Board's final approval.

Following the CoC Board's final approval, CoC staff posted to the FRCoC website and distributed to the full CoC membership the completed collaborative application, project ranking, and project applications for public review.

Changes from the current FY19 Year One Request (revised 11/7/18) include:

- \$31,035 increase to coordinated assessment - In November 2018, Loisann's Hope House took over as the community's coordinated assessment provider, providing 24/7 coverage for all those in the community experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The community has seen a higher call volume of service requests since the establishment of the centralized assessment helpline. In the first quarter of the helpline's operation, the line fielded over 1,000 calls for assistance. The increased funding for coordinated assessment will provide Loisann's Hope House with the funding needed to administer the program for a 12-month period (previous funding was for an 8-month contract) and to provide additional staff support to the line.
- \$82,982 decrease to targeted prevention - Increases to coordinated assessment and rapid rehousing described herein resulted in a decrease in prevention funding, per the ranking recommended by the Funding & Performance Committee.
- \$50,000 increase to rapid rehousing - \$50,000 was added to the rapid rehousing category for Micah Ministries to provide rapid rehousing services for households without children. During the FY19 VHSP funding round, Micah Ministries experienced a \$49,177 decrease in rapid rehousing due to community's overall decrease in VSHP funding. The loss of this funding has limited the community's ability to rehouse households without children. The increase in rapid rehousing funding will allow for greater movement among this population, allowing the community to serve an additional 12 households without children.
- \$8,242 increase to HMIS - Additional HMIS funding was provided to agencies to assist with HMIS requirements.
- \$6,295 decrease to administration - Administration funds that had been allocated to NVFS in FY19 are no longer included, causing an overall decrease in this category in the FY20 budget.