

FY22 FRCoC Cover Letter for VHSP Funding

A separate cover sheet is required for each project application.

Applicant

Legal Name:

Type of Applicant (select one): Non-Profit Housing Authority PDC Unit of Local Government

EIN/TIN: 20-4044884

Address: PO Box 3277, Fredericksburg, VA 22402

Application Contact

Name: Meghann Cotter

Title: Executive Servant-Leader

Phone: 540-479-4116

Email: meghann@dolovewalk.net

Project Name: Micah Street Case Management

Project Type (select one):

- Coordinated Assessment Outreach Emergency Shelter Operations
 Rapid Re-Housing Targeted Prevention Housing Location
 CoC Planning (*Only the CoC Lead Agency is eligible to apply for CoC Planning VHSP funding.*)

Type of Application (select one):

- Renewal (requesting level or reduced funding for existing project)
 Renewal with Expansion (requesting increased funding for existing project)

Renewal Amount Requested: \$26,224

Expansion Amount Requested: n/a

Approximate number of people this program will serve: 100

The applicant organization's governing board discussed and/or approved this application for funding at a meeting held on _____ (date). If this application has not yet been discussed, it will be discussed at the next meeting of the governing board, which will be held on _____ May 11, 2021 _____ (date).

The applicant organization named above will act as the responsible fiscal agent for any funds received and will comply with applicable tax laws, regulations, and CoC policies. By signing this application, we agree that we have read and approve of the content of this application.

Board Chair:

Geel M. Rankin, IV April 18, 2021
Signature Date

Executive Director:

[Signature] April 19, 2021
Signature Date

FY22 FRCoC Application for VHSP Funding Outreach; Emergency Shelter Operations; Rapid Re-Housing; Targeted Prevention

Please complete a separate application form for each outreach, emergency shelter operations, rapid re-housing, and targeted prevention project.

Application Information

Type of Application (select one):

- Renewal (requesting level or reduced funding for existing project)
- Renewal with Expansion (requesting increased funding for existing project)

Applicant

Applicant Name: **Micah Ecumenical Ministries**
Project Name: **Micah Street Case Management**

Line-Item Budget

Please complete line-item budget below. Budget amounts should reflect the VHSP request only.

Note: Renewal projects can apply for renewal HMIS and Administration amounts up to the grantee's total FY21 HMIS and Administration amounts regardless of 5% and 3% caps. HMIS and Administration amounts across all FY22 project applications will not exceed allowable 5% and 3% caps across the community.

Expansion projects can apply for an HMIS expansion up to the amount where the combined renewal/expansion HMIS request is 5% of the combined renewal/expansion project subtotal and an Administration expansion up to the amount where the combined renewal/expansion Administration request is 3% of the combined renewal/expansion project subtotal.

	Renewal Amount	Expansion Amount
Outreach		
Case Management	\$26,224	
Limited Support Services		
Other (specify)		
Subtotal	\$26,224	
HMIS (up to 5% of subtotal)		
Computer Costs		
Fees and Licenses		
HMIS Staffing		
Training		
Other (specify)		
Administration (up to 3% of subtotal)		
Administration		
Total	\$26,224	

Match

Please indicate sources of match. Match must equal 25% of requested amount and must be spent on eligible VHSP expenses, but does not need to be of the same VHSP Category as the request. Match must be from local or private sources. If the project is requesting partial or full waiver of the match requirement, please explain. (See Page 19 of the Virginia Homeless and Special Needs Housing Funding Guidelines 2020-2022 for full explanation of the match requirement.)

Type	Source	VHSP Category	Amount
Cash	Mary Washington	Emergency Shelter Operations	\$6,556
Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
Choose an item.		Choose an item.	

Narrative Responses

Provide a description that addresses the entire scope of the proposed project. (Character Limit: 3,000)

Micah's street outreach is a close compliment to CoC-sponsored diversion and housing first efforts. The program's 1.5 staff members, with support from a mental health outreach worker from RACSB, work to assist newer and less vulnerable homeless persons in implementing self-resolutions, pursuing alternatives and accessing shelter as a last resort. More intensive support is offered as options are ruled out. The end goal of street outreach efforts is to minimize the number of people sleeping on the street and lay the groundwork for the housing stabilization through rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing when other solutions cannot be identified. Both levels of support focus on engaging and supporting the highest barrier, most vulnerable individuals on the street prior to their placement in permanent housing.

Everyone who accesses Micah's Hospitality Center and identifies as living on the street is captured in an overarching street outreach program. At this stage, the street outreach case manager, called the Hospitality Navigator, and a support staff person (Intake Manager) play a crucial advocacy role for vulnerable homeless individuals seeking access to the coordinated assessment and shelter system. Staff will also visit, upon request, those who are identified in the community as living in places not meant for human habitation but not frequenting the day center. These individuals are also looped into the street outreach process so that they can be prioritized for housing resources. In the coming year, we intend to launch a more proactive outreach effort with a coordinated team of volunteers who will make regular visits to known camping areas.

Continued need for street outreach support is monitored through services at the center and contacts in the community. A list of individuals receiving street outreach, ranked by vulnerability data (VI-SPDAT, episodes, disability, time homeless, etc.) is then reviewed monthly for the more targeted street case management program. Once enrolled in the more intensive street case management program, participants show up on a community prioritization list, where they can be assigned for housing placement.

The Hospitality Navigator works with around 25 to 35 people at a time. Generally, people enrolled in street case management have been outdoors or precariously housed for an extended amount of time and are considered highly vulnerable.

Once enrolled, the Intake Manager completes documentation of chronic homelessness (if applicable) and begins to identify the best housing intervention. This could include referrals to prevention, connection with veteran's programs, or prioritization through the CoC's community housing process. The Hospitality Navigator then begins to establish goals with individuals and connects them to the supports they will need to eventually sustain housing (i.e. income, health care, identification, etc). As necessary, she will transport them to appointments, set up needed services in the community or problem-solve various life issues. The Hospitality Navigator supports the housing team in their efforts to identify and secure sustainable housing, then turns over the case to a housing case manager once assigned through prioritization.

Because the street case management program sits at the center of Micah's wrap-around support system, program participants have instant access to a wide range of community resources. This includes a full-time PATH outreach worker, a full-time Goodwill employment specialist and a wide variety of rotating community partners (i.e. a DSS eligibility worker, veteran's administration representative, DMV, etc.) that operates from Micah's main office. The Hospitality Navigator generally walks program participants through the process of connecting to community resources either through a warm hand off or direct connection, rather than simply handing out referral lists and phone numbers.

If renewal funding is being requested, explain how the project continues to meet a community need. If expansion funding is being requested, explain how the additional funds will increase system capacity and justify the community need for additional capacity. Additionally, please use the table below to provide data that supports your response. (Character Limit: 3,000)

This renewal funding is crucial to allow Micah to continue dedicating staffing to street outreach, which has become increasingly important in the effort to move everyone off the street, and help people who are literally homeless to navigate the CoC coordinated assessment system.

Covid-19 has created two new circumstances for Micah. First, we are now effectively managing a shelter out of hotels, but with no new staff dedicated to managing those cases. Second, there are fewer people literally homeless on the street due to Covid funds. Those who *are* literally homeless do not come into the Micah Hospitality Center frequently enough to get the help they need. Effectively working with these people necessitates going out to them, rather than expecting them to come to us. Renewal funding for street outreach will allow staff to remain dedicated for these purposes, spending time doing case management at hotels and case management for those who are not accessing the Hospitality Center, rather than staying in place at the Hospitality Center to manage other responsibilities. With this funding, the Hospitality Navigator is able to focus more on the housing-focused case management aspect of the position.

Particularly with the community's movement to a more centralized intake process, the success of those on the street in accessing needed services (i.e. shelter, prevention and housing) is dependent on the available staffing to advocate and make connections. Those on the street, particularly those with high barriers, often struggle to access systems due to limited transportation, access to phones, being poor self-advocates and having little trust in people and systems.

Without additional resources for street outreach and street case management, we would be unable to maintain the necessary advocacy for this high-barrier group, and we would be unable to dedicate enough time to make this advocacy successful and productive. Data indicates that a lack of advocacy for this population will mean less connection with coordinated assessment, fewer shelter entries from those literally on the street, and higher numbers living in places not meant for human habitation.

The Hospitality Navigator is able to manage about 25 to 35 people at a time, as her work with those on the street is not as intense as those in housing case management. As situations change frequently in her role and the goal is handing those in street case management off to housing as quickly as possible, she is typically able to exit people within 90 days. Funding from the outreach portion of the grant will continue to allow this position to be focus on the relational side of street case management.

This funding frees her from some of the administrative aspects of street outreach, and helps to dedicate her staffing hours to supporting the most vulnerable homeless in navigating the CoC system. This funding allows the Intake Manager instead to spend more time on administrative work, documentation housing plans, and prioritization, while staying in the Hospitality Center to be accessible to those who access Micah services that way.

	Relevant data, metrics and/or cost analysis
Current Need	<p>2021's PIT results indicate 180 total persons experiencing homelessness in our planning district, with 18 of those unsheltered and 162 of those in emergency shelter. While this number is lower than 2020's PIT count by about 15 percent, it still speaks of an ongoing need for outreach and housing placement.</p> <p>For the first half of FY21, Micah's more intensive level of outreach, street case management, has served 83 households, 22 of which were new households (not served in a previous year).</p> <p>These individuals represent some of the most vulnerable in our community, with 36 reporting mental health problems, 18 reporting both alcohol and drug abuse problems, 23 reporting chronic health conditions, 15 reporting physical disabilities, and 4 reporting developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Of those 83 households, 64 were connected to an appropriate mainstream service during the first half of FY21, and the vast majority of these households received more than one referral to an appropriate service.</p>
How Renewal/Expansion Funding Will Meet Need	<p>Continued funding allows Micah staff, in particular the Hospitality Navigator, to continue meeting these vulnerable individuals where they are, in particular allowing staff to travel to hotels where covid funds have housed many of these clients. Without renewal, it would be exponentially more difficult to provide these individuals with services or prioritize them for housing.</p>

Please indicate the breakdown of household types targeted by this project:

	Renewal	Expansion
Households with Children	%	%
Households without Children	100%	%
Total	100%	100%

Certify that the project will adhere to the *FRCoC Coordinated Entry Policies & Procedures*, including the following requirements of the document:

- Follow the Housing First model
- Participate in the FRCoC Coordinated Entry Process and/or the Victim Service Coordinated Entry Process (including coordinated assessment for shelter/prevention and prioritization for rapid re-housing)
- Adhere to established project standards (including *FRCoC Rapid Re-Housing Policies & Procedures*)
- Collect data through HMIS or a comparable database

What percentage of households will be served through the Victim Service Coordinated Entry Process (including coordinated assessment for shelter/prevention and prioritization for rapid re-housing)?

	Renewal	Expansion
Households Served through Victim Service Coordinated Entry Process	0%	0%

Provide the following data. These numbers will be used to calculate anticipated number of households served by the project.

	Renewal	Expansion
Number of FTE Case Managers Dedicated to Project (could be fraction)	.65	

Ideal Caseload for 1 FTE Case Manager	25-35
Average Length of Stay for Project Participants	90-120 days
Average Financial Assistance Cost per Household (RRH/Prevention Only)	n/a
Shelter Beds for Households without Children (Shelter Operations Only)	n/a
Shelter Beds for Households with Children (Shelter Operations Only)	n/a
Shelter Units for Households with Children (Shelter Operations Only)	n/a

Are there any unresolved monitoring or audit findings for any grants operated by the applicant or potential subrecipients? If yes, please explain. (Character Limit: 1,000)

Yes No

Attachments

Organizational Certifications and Assurances (once per agency; template provided)
DV Renewal Projects ONLY: FRCoC Data Form (each project; template provided)