Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness

Funding Review Committee recommendation for ESG 2025 competition

July 30th, 2025

To the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness Leadership Team:

The OCPEH Funding Review Committee (FRC), a subcommittee of the Performance Review Committee (PRC), has reviewed and scored the two applications received for the 2025 ESG CoC funding competition. The two applicants, IFC and the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH), submitted applications to request funding for Emergency Shelter operations ($26,512) and Rapid Rehousing ($44,187), respectively.

The total available amount of funding available in 2025 is $44,187, a significant decrease from previous years, including 2024's $98,000. OCPEH was notified by the ESG office that the reduction in funding was due to elimination of a minimum funding requirement that had been in place for several years. As per the policy guidelines set by HUD and the state ESG office, **no more than $26,512 is available** for Emergency Response: Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter Operations and Services. For Housing Stability: Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Targeted Prevention, **no less than $17,675 can be awarded** for funding. This significant decrease in funding made the process of reviewing and making funding recommendations challenging for the FRC.

The FRC recommends that the Leadership Team fund the Rapid Rehousing Program in the full amount of $44,187. This decision was based on a number of factors.

- Average scores for each applicant were 58.4 for OC RRH and 53.2 for IFC.
- The FRC determined that maximizing the benefit of the available funding was paramount, and felt that splitting the reduced funds between the two applicants would not resolve either agency's funding needs.
- Because the RRH Program is working to provide more stable and permanent forms of housing for residents, it was determined to grant this precedence over temporary/transitional housing.
- Within the application provided by the ESG office, the applicants were required to provide cost per client/household, percentage of households exiting to positive housing destination, and total number of households served. IFC expects to serve 50 households at a cost of $9,512 with 35% of households exiting to positive housing destinations. OC RRH expects to serve 4 households at a cost of $11,036.75 with a 100% expectation of exiting to positive housing destinations.
- There should be additional opportunities for fundraising and grant opportunities to fund Shelter Operations, which IFC noted in their application, stating that they do not rely solely on ESG funding for Shelter Operations.
- RRH only has three fixed opportunities to fund itself – the ESG competition, the HUD CoC competition and HOME TBRA funds, and at least two of those sources are in jeopardy at the federal level.
- RRH applied for the full amount of funding in order to maximize the number of households that can be served. Splitting the funding to award IFC's request would mean reducing the amount of RRH households assisted from 4 to 1.

The FRC would like to reiterate that this decision was not easy to come to and recognizes the challenges the CoC faces currently with limited funding available. The FRC also feels that the Leadership Team should be looking to enhance applicants' capacity around grant applications, data collection, and financial stability. The FRC is concerned about IFC's ability to pay down its debts and remain financially sound. Given the uncertainty at the Federal level, OCPEH should look at every possible avenue to fund its programs and its efforts in Orange County.