



#150609

Veterans Emergency Housing Grant

City Commission Meeting
March 17, 2016

Background Information

- On June 18, 2015, Mayor Ed Braddy, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator Kelly Ferrel, and Assistant City Manager Fred Murry met with local Veterans Affairs (VA) officials, Director Thomas Wisnieski, Deputy Director Nancy Reissener, and Chief of Community Care Services Vianne Marchese, to discuss this subject.
- The VA officials expressed a need for supportive housing for veterans and asked if that need could be addressed at the Empowerment Center
- The City of Gainesville has the ability to provide buildings and construction funds for VA housing but not the other supportive services.

Background information

- Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry (ACCHH) entered into a contract to provide up to \$900,000 in emergency transitional residential services for homeless Veterans.
- These services are to be provided on per diem basis and include indoor shelter, meals, case management, showers, laundry, transportation and other services as may be needed while the veteran is in residency.
- This is an opportunity for a partnership between the ACCHH, the VA, and the City of Gainesville to provide support services to veterans and their families.

Partnership Responsibilities

- ACCHH would be responsible for providing supportive services (shelter, meals, etc.) and would receive up to \$180,000 per year for next five (5) years from the VA on a per diem basis.
- The local VA would provide case management services to veterans in the hopes of moving the veterans to permanent housing in the community.

Partnership Responsibilities

- The City would renovate one of the dorms at the Empowerment Center.
- This contract is a separate contract between the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry.

Costs

	VA	City	ACCHH	Total
	Case Mgmt/ Shelter & Supp Svcs	Building- Construction /Renov	Building- Interior Remodeling	
Year 1	180,000	380,000	TBD	560,000
Year 2	180,000	-	-	180,000
Year 3	180,000	-	-	180,000
Year 4	180,000	-	-	180,000
Year 5	180,000	-	-	180,000
Total	900,000	380,000	TBD	1,280,000

Management Responsibilities

- ACCHH would be responsible for the management of the building and all expenses related to the building.
- In the event the City decides to not renew the contract with the ACCHH at the Empowerment Center, it would still manage under a separate contract with the VA.

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009

- This partnership is an excellent example of government, non-profit, and community collaboration.
- It proposes 3,597 days of community-based transitional environment for homeless veterans the first year of the agreement.
- This partnership creates a win-win for the community.
- This partnership would also recognize a local veteran by naming the building in his/her honor.

Recommendation

The City Commission

1) consider and authorize the City of Gainesville to enter an agreement with Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry, Inc. to lease one dormitory for five years, subject to the VA's provision of funding and case management,

Recommendation

The City Commission

2) authorize City staff to utilize Connect Free funds in the amount of \$247,223 for water, wastewater, and plumbing improvements for the building and utilize up to \$132,777 from general or bond funds for HVAC repairs for the dorm,

Recommendation

The City Commission

3) authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement between the City and ACCHH, subject to the City Attorney's review and approval as to form and function, and

Recommendation

The City Commission

4) direct City staff to identify possible names for the dorm and bring them back to the City Commission for consideration and approval on such terms as the Commission deems appropriate.

Alternative Recommendation

The City Commission choose not to participate in the Veterans Emergency Housing Program.

Thank you

Questions/Discussion