

Memorandum

Community and Economic Development Department

To: Rock Island City Council
Subject: Continuum of Care Grant
Date: January 31, 2023



The US Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) has a grant program called the Continuum of Care (CoC). It is meant to address homelessness. From HUD:

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Here in Rock Island, the recipient of CoC grant funding was the Housing Authority for many years. The Housing Authority in turn had a subrecipient relationship with DeLaCerde House which provides permanent supportive housing assistance to individuals living with HIV/AIDS. In June 2020, the Housing Authority asked the City to take over responsibility for the CoC grant funding. Changing priorities and staffing made it difficult for the Housing Authority to properly manage the grant funding. At that time, the City was the only other entity that HUD would allow to manage it. Recognizing the importance of DeLaCerde House and its work, the City agreed to take on the responsibility.

Since that time, two things have happened. First, HUD has changed its requirements and the City is no longer the only entity that can manage CoC grant funding. Second, DeLaCerde House has developed a close partnership with Project Now. As a result, staff from both the City and Project Now have agreed that the best thing to do is transfer responsibility for managing the CoC grant from the City to Project Now. The City has acted as a caretaker for this important grant funding, but it is now appropriate to hand it over to an organization whose mission more closely aligns with that of the DeLaCerde House. The City's HUD representative agrees and has asked that the City Council formally approve the transfer with a simple vote.

Recommendation:

The Community & Economic Development Department recommends that the City Council approve the transfer of responsibility for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program from the City to Project Now.

Submitted by: Nichole Mata, Community Development Manager
Miles Brainard, Community & Economic Development Director

Approved by: Todd Thompson, City Manager