

El Paso CoC Board Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Zoom

Quorum established. Meeting called to order at 4:06 PM. Chair, Shelby McCue, welcomes all present.

1. No Public Comment.

Discussion and Potential Action Items

2. Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) – ESG CARES Act. Staff reported that TDHCA developed a programming plan for the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act first allocation. TDHCA reached out to CoC Lead Agencies to determine interest in acting as an ESG Coordinator and to gather ESG Coordinator Application materials. TDHCA developed an application process for CoC Leads. Staff reported that one of the requirements of the CoC was to develop a termination policy that complied with 24 CFR §576.400 which says
 - (a) ***In general.*** If a program participant violates program requirements, the recipient or Subrecipient may terminate the assistance in accordance with a formal process established by the recipient or Subrecipient that recognizes the rights of individuals affected. The recipient or Subrecipient must exercise judgment and examine all extenuating circumstances in determining when violations warrant termination so that a program participant's assistance is terminated only in the most severe cases.
 - (b) ***Program participants receiving rental assistance or housing relocation and stabilization services.*** To terminate rental assistance or housing relocation and stabilization services to a program participant, the required formal process, at a minimum, must consist of:
 - (1) Written notice to the program participant containing a clear statement of the reasons for termination;
 - (2) A review of the decision, in which the program participant is given the opportunity to present written or oral objections before a person other than the person (or a subordinate of that person) who made or approved the termination decision; and
 - (3) Prompt written notice of the final decision to the program participant.
 - (c) ***Ability to provide further assistance.*** Termination under this section does not bar the recipient or Subrecipient from providing further assistance at a later date to the same family or individual.

Members discussed the above language and asked staff to define the references of program participant, Subrecipient and recipient.

Upon the motion of Melissa Lopez to amend the CoC Governance Document to include language of 24 CFR §576.400 and to send amended CoC Governing document to CoC Board Members via email for a review and approval process, seconded by Deborah Zuloaga. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Staff presented the history of population prioritization under TDHCA, youth. TDHCA has coordinated the allocation of ESG CARES Act contacted all CoC asking that each CoC leads the local completion. Staff discussed how unique youth homeless population is. Staff discussed that at monthly Planning Committee Meetings, starting in December 2019, discussions started on focusing on youth under the ESG-TDHCA funding stream.

Upon the motion of Melissa Lopez to approve the prioritization of the 1st round of State ESG CARES Act for youth programs, seconded by EdRicardo Gandara. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Staff briefly discussed prioritization of the 2nd tranche of ESG CARES Act through the State. Once funds are allocated through the state, and depending how entitlement funds from the city are directed, Staff asks that the discretion be given to make the decision of how funds will be deployed. No action taken.

3. Opportunity Center Discussion/Update and Information Only. Item tabled.
4. COVID-19 Emergency Homeless Shelters Update and Information Only. Staff discussed the planning and discussions with the City, County and stakeholders in developing the Delta Welcome Centers.

CoC Board expressed interest in reviewing the data and seeing what the trends are. HMIS will develop reports to be sent to CoC Board.

5. CARES Act Prioritization. Staff reported that the bulk of the ESG CARES Act was originally proposed to support prevention, but has changed. Discussion on the importance of rapid rehousing
6. Miscellaneous. Staff reported efforts of the Board Chair on acquiring ‘burner’ phones for program participants in rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing and those residing in the streets. Discussion on proposals and matching grants that can possibly fund the phones.

A letter was drafted by Chair that focuses on how non-profit agencies contribute to the community.

A follow-up meeting will be scheduled with DMRS to discuss how the community can address DMRS population during pandemic crisis.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 PM.