

**Georgia Entitlements HPRP
Meeting and Conference Call
April 23, 2009 at 10:00 AM- DCA**

Present at DCA:

Craig Goebel	- Gwinnett County
Julie Boyd	- City of Atlanta
Bonni Ware	- City of Atlanta
Lori Burnett	- DeKalb County
Leonard Westmoreland	- Fulton County
Don Watt	- DCA
John Bassett	- DCA
Jacalyn Baker	- DCA
Tracy Hipp	- DCA
Bonnie Woods	- DCA

Via Conference Call:

Mary Presley	- HUD
Hakun Chang	- HUD
Stella Taylor	- HUD
Alma Cooper	- HUD
Charles Greenfield	- HUD
Thelma Watson	- City of Albany
LaTrice Johnson	- City of Atlanta
Vicki Johnson	- Augusta-Richmond County
Rose White	- Augusta-Richmond County
Tammy Alvarado	- Augusta-Richmond County
Joyce Ford	- Augusta-Richmond County
Henry Holt	- Augusta HMIS
Jeremy Grey	- Cobb County
Diana Billinger(?)	- Cobb County
Mark McCollum	- Columbus-Muscogee County
Joe Riddle	- Columbus-Muscogee County
Andrea Palmer	- City of Macon
Jesse Gerwig-Moore	- City of Macon
Vann McNeill	- City of Sandy Springs

Entitlement Plans to Date:

City of Atlanta - The City of Atlanta is currently working on their plan. They have issued a proposal, and applicants have until May 4 to respond. Applicants were limited to those organizations that are currently funded through the Tri-J or City of Atlanta; the proposal is not open to other applicants.

Fulton County - Fulton County will continue its Resettlement Program, which includes deposits for units and utilities for a period of three months. They estimate 300 families and/or individuals will be assisted through the Resettlement Program with HPRP funds. Fulton County will also continue its program of 20 units of supportive housing. These units will be for families staying at the City of Refuge emergency shelter that have completed their programs. Travelers Aid will be doing case management for these families. They estimate that 320 families and individuals will be served through this program.

DeKalb County – DeKalb County is working on its Substantial Amendment, which will go to the Board of Commissioners on May 12th. A technical workshop will be held on May 13th, with applications being accepted from May 14th until June 1st. They expect to approve applications by July 1st. DeKalb County is conducting a meeting today at the Maloof Center for to discuss their timeline and other specifics.

Cobb County – Cobb has prepared their Substantial Amendment and has concluded its public comment period. Pending their local approval process, Cobb expects to fund two Cobb organizations that they expect will be able to hit the ground running – their largest social service organization and the organization that serves the most homeless individuals.

Gwinnett County – Gwinnett conducted a Needs Assessment forum on April 17th, and their Needs Assessment survey is due tomorrow (4/24). It will be publicized by April 27th, and they will hold an application workshop on April 27th. They will conduct an open, competitive process in May-June, with applications due on June 19th.

City of Macon – Macon has requested letters of intent to apply from potential sub-recipients and the local homeless coalition. On April 29th, they will hold a public hearing, notice of which will be in the newspaper this Sunday, April 26th, to comment on the levels of need identified and consolidated plan. The City Council meets on May 5th and will be asked to approve the plan at that time.

Columbus-Muscogee County – The City Manager and Council passed a blanket resolution to allow this entitlement to submit their Substantial Amendment without coming back to the Council provided there is no match requirement. They are working with the Homeless Resource Network on a program budget, the draft of which will be completed on April 24th or 27th. A public hearing is scheduled for May 4th. The Homeless Resource Network will be the lead agency coordinating their effort. They will be expanding HMIS to track accountability.

Augusta-Richmond – Augusta-Richmond held a meeting of their Continuum of Care on March 24th to explain the program and distribute the HPRP notice. A public hearing was convened on March 30th and they started soliciting applications at that time. The deadline for application was April 6th. Recommendations on projects to fund have been made. The public comment ends on April 24th.

Department of Community Affairs – DCA has been reviewing the HPRP and researching best practices around prevention and rapid re-housing. Planning meetings are on-going, with Homeless Advisory Group meeting on April 28th and the Interagency Council meeting on April 29th. Notice regarding the public comment period will be published on April 30th, with the public comment period to end on May 12th. We expect to submit our Substantial Amendment to HUD on May 15th. The announcement of application for HPRP funds will be on or about May 19th, and workshops (probably three, which we expect will be held in Savannah, Macon, and Atlanta) will be held shortly thereafter. Applications will be due to DCA on July 1st, with awards to be made as quickly as possible thereafter. We expect to rely on existing grantees, but may expand the pool to include Community Action Agencies, housing counseling agencies, etc. We are reaching out to statewide partners and other organizations, such as the Department of Labor.

Information from HUD:

- Entitlement must submit a signed and dated form 424, Substantial Amendment (4119), Consolidated Plan and HPRP certification to HUD by May 18th.
- HUD will be conducting trainings through May and June. An HPRP training will probably be conducted in Atlanta in mid-June.
- Comment period – A summary of comments must be included in submissions.
- HUD expects a 45 day turnaround on approving applications. If applications are not approved, the entitlement will have 15 days in which to resubmit their application.
- Contracts with HUD must be executed by September 1st.
- All money must be obligated by September 30th
- The first quarterly report to HUD will be due on October 10th.
- HUD is encouraging all entitlements to post information on websites. (DCA would like to post links to each entitlement's website and requested that all entitlement send urls or other information to John Bassett for that purpose.)
- The "clock starts" on the date that the contracts are signed by HUD.
- It was suggested that contracts/agreements with subrecipients include specific provisions regarding spending targets.
- Only planning costs, such as application preparation costs and costs associated with public hearings are allowed pre-award administrative costs.
- HUD will provide guidance regarding whether or not an agency and consumer's name can appear on a lease; on rent reasonableness; and whether not specific tools will be mandated.
- HUD anticipates that an HPRP training will occur – likely in mid-June.

General Discussion / Statewide Collaboration

- HMIS – not discussed
- DCA will give priority to grantees serving outside of the local entitlements.
- A suggestion was made for entitlements to use common eligibility applications, reporting forms, etc... to ease administration by grantees. HUD will check to determine if recommended/sample forms will be provided as guidance.

- Entitlements need to consider whether households who currently live in a local entitlement will be able to access housing outside of the entitlement. Atlanta indicated that the city prefers that the households live in the city but will not restrict. Entitlements stated that they will handle on a case by case basis.
- An entitlements HUD contact for this program will be their typical ESG contact.
- It was recommended that entitlements look to housing counseling agencies as potential partners.
- The HPRP rule currently states that the household must be on the lease for rapid re-housing. Many landlords will not rent to homeless households and will require a “sponsor” entity on the lease. HUD will research whether both the household and the sponsor can be on the lease.
- Statewide training for competencies in disability determinations, employment, HQS, other
- Continued use of GeorgiaHousingSearch.org

Meeting concluded at 11:20 a.m.

Meeting notes prepared by Don Watt, Jacalyn Baker and John Basset