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CITY OF DANBURY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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October 9, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mayor Mark D. Boughton and City Council

FROM: Scott LeRoy, Director of Health and Human Services

RE: Change of Scope for the VA Grant Per Diem Program

The City of Danbury's Health and Human Services is requesting Council approval for a requested Change of Scope for the original 2008 VA Homeless Grant Per Diem program administered for our Emergency Homeless Shelter. The five (5) dedicated beds for our homeless veterans through this grant per diem program has allowed the shelter to provide assorted social services, case management and the final result of either transitional or permanent housing.

Many of the goals and objectives made in 2008 have been met, but the original language is now outdated and, per request of the Emergency Shelter's Veteran's Administration liaison, must be updated per a required Change of Scope. The information provided is the requested changes made that needs Council approval, the Mayor's signature and letterhead for the local State Veterans Administration review and submission for acceptance at the head VA headquarters in Tampa, Florida.

The City of Danbury will continue to strive in meeting the goals of eliminating veteran's homelessness by 2015 along with supporting the Mayor's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office. Thank you.



RESOLUTION

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

_____ A.D. 2014

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY

WHEREAS, the Danbury City Council, in 2008, approved the acceptance of a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration Grant for Homelessness among our Nation's veterans in this area; and

WHEREAS, that "Grant Per Diem" program, accepted for the New Street Homeless Shelter and related operations needs to be updated to more adequately serve the continuing needs of Danbury's homeless population; and

WHEREAS, a Change of Scope from the 2008 Grant and contract for services is necessary to further achieve the various goals and services for 2014 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, these changes will be outlined in further detail in documents setting forth the intent of the amended services and programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mark D. Boughton, Mayor of the City of Danbury be and hereby is authorized to execute such documents as may be necessary to implement the **Change in Scope for the VA Grant Per Diem Program** and to take such other actions as may be required in furtherance thereof.

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October 9, 2014

Ms. MaryEllen Leigh, LCSW
114-152 Boston Post Road
c/o The Herrera Community Care Center
West Haven, Connecticut 06516

RE: Change of Scope

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The following changes have been made by the City of Danbury VA Per Diem Grant administered by the City's Health and Human Services Department to meet certain objectives and goals outlined under the original grant of 2008. In order to meet the specific criteria outlined in the original grant, the Health and Human Services Department has updated and made significant changes (i.e Change of Scope) to meet the required standards during both quarterly reporting and its annual inspection.

The following is the change of scope that is being requested for acceptance:

Area 1.(1a): Residential Stability of Participants:

Objective 1: 25% of homeless veterans engaged through outreach will reside in our program up to 6 months.

Recommendation: Omit

Reason: Length of stay should be in accordance with GPD guidelines which can offer opportunity for transitional housing for up to 2 years if needed.

Objective 2: 40% of homeless veterans who reside in our program for more than 6 months will obtain permanent housing.

Recommendation: change 25% to 20%.

Reason: The original grant, 08-028-CT was written to incorporate and utilize the arrangement of the City's Homeless Shelter and Vet House I for easy transitioning from homelessness. Of those homeless vets who choose not to go to Vet House I and/or are not qualified as a referral to Vet House I, 20% shall find other permanent housing opportunities.

Objective 3: no change

Objective 4: no change

Objective 5: no change

Objective 6: 100% of homeless veterans enrolled in our program will create an action plan with the guidance of an assigned caseworker in order to identify barriers to residential stability and methods to overcome those barriers.

Recommendation: 100% of our homeless veterans enrolled in our program for 30 days or more will create an action plan with the guidance of an assigned caseworker in order to identify all barriers to residential stability and produce methods to overcome those barriers such as financial services to teach budgeting assistance and in obtaining VA or State entitlements towards housing.

Reason: Providing a more detailed time line of initiating a viable action plan for veterans in our program.

Objective 7: See recommendation for Objective 6

Objective 8: See recommendation for Objective 6

Objective 9: 75% of homeless veterans will engage in services related to substance abuse or mental health is appropriate.

Recommendation: 100% of homeless veterans who request and/or demonstrate the need for substance abuse and/or mental health services needs shall be enrolled in a program to meet their specific needs.

Reason: Allowing all veterans the opportunity to express, validate, and reveal the need for assistance to address their addiction and/or mental illness.

Objective 10: 50% of homeless veterans in our program will participate in our peer leadership program and will serve on a housing advisory committee.

Recommendation: omit

Reason: This issue is addressed on the VA Annual GPD Inspection report #47.

Objective 11: 75% of homeless veterans will become employed through our program.

Recommendation: 100% of our homeless veterans will be referred to Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) for assistance with employment opportunities and permanent housing options.

Reason: In today's economy, job opportunities are limited, but this is a feasible program in place for veterans to participate.

Areas 1.(2a): Increased skill level and/or income of participants:

Objective: 1: 100% of all program participants will assess their employment and financial needs with an assigned caseworker.

Recommendation: 100% of all homeless veterans shall be assessed at intake on their employment and income status. If needed or requested, veterans shall be referred to local community agencies for assistance in obtaining or improving employment and income.

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Reason: Staff provides this assessment at intake and records/documents in file/progress notes.

Objective 2: See recommendation for Objective 1

Objective 3: See recommendation for Objective 1

Objective 4: See recommendation for Objective 1

Objective 5: No change

Objective 6: 50% of homeless veterans participating in our on-site employment program will successfully open, maintain and save money in a bank account.

Recommendation: 50% of homeless veterans who become employed will open, maintain and save money in a personal bank account or the City Shelter account that is monitored by shelter staff.

Reason: Easy access of deposit of funds.

Objective 7: See recommendation for Objective 1

Area 1.(3a): Self Determination of participants:

Objective 1: No change

Objective 2: 90% of homeless veterans in our programs will take responsibility for the scheduling and rescheduling of their appointments.

Recommendation: 100% of homeless veterans in our program will take responsibility for all types of scheduling of appointments.

Reason: Accountability and responsibility to be taken by veterans.

Objective 3: 100% of homeless veterans in our program will direct the development of an action plan based on participant's needs and interest with the guidance of a caseworker.

Recommendation: 100% of homeless veterans in our program will develop an action plan within 30 days of admission based on their needs and interest with the guidance of a caseworker.

Reason: Time frame needed.

Objective 4: 50% of homeless veterans identified to have substance abuse issues will actively participate in support groups with peers through an on-site substance abuse provider.

Recommendation: 100% of homeless veterans who have identified as having a substance abuse problem will actively participate in substance abuse treatment.

Reason: All will participate.

Objective 5: 50% of homeless veterans identified to have mental health issues will actively participate in support groups with peers through the on-site health provider.

Recommendation: 100% of homeless veterans identified as having a mental health issue will actively participate in mental health treatment.

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Reason: All will participate.

Objective 6: 50% of homeless veterans in our program will participate in a peer leadership program and will serve on a housing advisory committee.

Recommendation: Omit

Reason: Program has not/does not offer peer leadership programming at this time.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Scott LeRoy, Director of Health and Human Services at (203) 797-4625.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Boughton, Mayor
City of Danbury