

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** October 1, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Henderson County Rapid Re-Housing Program

**PRESENTER:** Brian K. Alexander, Homeward Bound Executive Director

**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes

1. Letter from Homeward Bound
2. Certification of Local Government Approval for Non-Profit Organizations

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Recently, local Henderson County service providers have begun working with Homeward Bound to organize a coalition and become part of the Balance of State Continuum of Care, the body that oversees the application process for federal homeless service funding. The Coalition has applied for federal funding through the Emergency Solutions Grant for Rapid Re-Housing, and recommends that the full amount of Emergency Solutions Grant funding available for Henderson County, a total of \$48,430, be used for Rapid Re-Housing by Homeward Bound. Additional information can be found in the attached letter from Homeward Bound.

There are no County funds associated with this request.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The state requires the local government to approve the program for the region in which services will be performed. Homeward Bound requests that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners approve the agency's Rapid Re-Housing Program to provide valuable permanent housing assistance to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Henderson County.

#### **Suggested Motion(s):**

*I move the Board approve Homeward Bound's Rapid Re-Housing Program, and authorize the Chairman to sign the Certification of Local Government Approval for Non-Profit Organizations approving the project within Henderson County.*



## **Henderson County Rapid Re-Housing Program**

### ***History***

In response to federal guidance through the Department of Housing and Urban Development and new regulations for homeless service funding through the Emergency Solutions Grant program, Homeward Bound of Asheville, Inc. contacted local homeless service providers in Henderson County to organize a Homeless Coalition.

Buncombe County has had enormous success since the implementation of its 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness reducing the overall homeless population by 25% and the chronically homeless population by 75% since its 2005 implementation. The Department of Housing and Urban Development recommends that successful regions, such as Buncombe County, educate surrounding communities about best practices, such as Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing, which have shown to reduce homelessness.

Since March 2012, Homeward Bound has been working with local Henderson County service providers to organize a coalition and become part of the Balance of State Continuum of Care, the body that oversees the application process for federal homeless service funding. Henderson County has historically not taken advantage of these dollars that could help the community reduce and/or end homelessness.

In a short time, the Henderson County Homeless Coalition has grown to over 20 organizations, educating itself on the available services, identifying gaps in services to specific populations, organizing goals for the next year, and applying for federal funding through Emergency Solutions Grant for Rapid Re-Housing. The coalition recently recommended that the full amount of Emergency Solutions Grant funding available for Henderson County, a total of \$48,430, be used for Rapid Re-Housing by Homeward Bound.

### ***Program***

Homeward Bound's Rapid Re-Housing Program will work with the Mainstay Domestic Violence Shelter and the Henderson County Public Schools HELP program to identify individuals and families experiencing homelessness in need of permanent housing. Rapid Re-Housing Case Managers will assist households to locate and procure fair-market, scattered-site housing and provide them housing stabilization services in their homes to ensure that they maintain their housing long-term. Homeward Bound will provide short- and medium-term tenant-based rental assistance and housing case management (1-24 months). In the first year of this program, the agency will house and support 15 households. Homeward Bound's case manager will be located at the Mainstay Domestic Violence Shelter.

### ***Request***

Homeward Bound has received a conditional award of Emergency Solution Grant funding in the amount of \$48,430.00 from the state of North Carolina. In order to contract, the state requires the local government to approve the program for the region in which services will be performed.

Homeward Bound requests that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners approve the agency's Rapid Re-Housing Program to provide valuable permanent housing assistance to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Henderson County.

Please feel free to contact Brian K. Alexander, Homeward Bound Executive Director, with any questions at [brian@hbofa.org](mailto:brian@hbofa.org) or (828)258-1695 ext. 256.



**Certification of Local Government Approval for Non-Profit Organizations**

I, Thomas H. Thompson, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, duly authorized to act on behalf of Henderson County hereby approve the project listed below proposed by Homeward Bound, which is located in Henderson County.

**Project: Henderson County Rapid Re-Housing Project**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas H. Thompson, Chairman of the Board