

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	August 15, 2022
Action Required:	Approval and Appropriation
Presenter:	Misty Graves, Director
Staff Contacts:	Hunter Smith, Human Services Planner
Title:	<b>Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (V.H.S.P.) Grant Award - \$539,369 (1 of 2 readings)</b>

**Background**

The Department of Human Services in coordination with the Blue Ridge Area Coalition for the Homeless (B.R.A.C.H.) and the Service Provider Council (S.P.C.), applied for and received a grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The Virginia Housing Solutions Program award is \$539,369 and funds to be expended between July 1st, 2022 and March 31st, 2023.

**Discussion**

The City of Charlottesville has staff from the departments of Human Services and Social Services taking leadership roles in the governance of B.R.A.C.H. V.H.S.P. (Virginia Homeless Solutions Program) is an important resource in our community's efforts to end homelessness. The grant provides services in several points along the local continuum of services:

1. Coordinated Assessment: The Haven serves as the physical front door to the homelessness system of care, using an evidence-based tool for determining priority access to available resources.
2. Emergency Low Barrier Shelter P.A.C.E.M. provides a low-barrier shelter for adults using rotating local churches for support.
3. Rapid Re-Housing & Housing Navigation: The Haven screens and administers rapid re-housing assistance and housing navigation to households experiencing homelessness.
4. Case Management: The Haven provides supportive services including crisis intervention, case management and service referrals.
5. Homeless Management Information System (H.M.I.S.): The City of Charlottesville as the award recipient will ensure that H.M.I.S. data is complete through an agreement with B.R.A.C.H. to have the Executive Director ensure data quality. Our Continuum of Care (C.O.C.) has a well-populated database for individuals experiencing homelessness. H.M.I.S collaboration provides real-time monitoring of the needs and progress of individuals and households facing homelessness. Collaborative use of H.M.I.S. among B.R.A.C.H. Continuum of Care Service Providers expedites communication and reduces the need to interface disparate documentation systems.

6. Coalition Coordination: The Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless provides leadership and coordination for the required local homelessness continuum of care.
7. Administration: The City of Charlottesville as the award recipient is eligible for an administrative fee. Staff proposes that we pass these dollars through to B.R.A.C.H. in recognition of staff time spent processing checks and managing this grant process.

### **Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan**

This grant advances the City of Charlottesville's Strategic Plan Goal #1 of an inclusive community of self-sufficient residents. Specifically, it will facilitate the objective of increasing affordable housing options.

### **Community Engagement**

This grant and plan are the product of extensive engagement of the service provider community for persons experiencing homelessness. This partnership is reflective of the new governance model for B.R.A.C.H. and the priority requests of the Interfaith Movement Promoting Action by Congregations Together (I.M.P.A.C.T.).

### **Budgetary Impact**

This grant will be entirely State, and Federal pass-through funds. No local match is required. There is no budget impact for the City of Charlottesville. All funds will be distributed to sub-recipients for service provision.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends approval and appropriation of grant funds.

### **Alternatives**

Council may elect to not accept the funds and the community will not have the capacity to administer the following services to persons experiencing a housing crisis: Emergency low-barrier shelter, coordinated assessment, rapid rehousing, H.M.I.S., coalition coordination and administration.

### **Attachments**

1. VHSP Resolution FY23