

**Human Services Commission
Minutes 5/12/2011
3rd Floor Resource Room
51 Inman Street**

Commissioners Present: Ayse Atasoylu, Christopher Hall, Claudia Hill, Kati LaBraico, Khari Milner, Lori Likis, Marian Darlington-Hope, Nan Stone, Rev. Lorraine Thornhill

Staff Present: Ellen Semonoff, Janice Alger, Jolyon Cowan, Jose Soares (recorder)

Ellen began the meeting stating that the actual CDBG cut the City is receiving is approximately 17.5%. However, the City has some CDBG contingency funds that will help shield some of the CDBG funded agencies that provide essential services from the full extent of these cuts. She emphasized that in all likelihood, the City would not have CDBG contingency funds next year when CDBG cuts will probably be as large.

Jolyon and Jose then made a brief presentation on the current fiscal year CDBG site visit findings, answered Commissioners questions, and informed the Commission that the application for The Young People's Project (TYPP) came in 4 days after the deadline of April 25th.

The Commission spoke at length about the challenges of making cuts to programs which all appeared to be providing important services to the community. After considering a number of different allocations the Commission unanimously agreed to recommend to the City Manager a final set of allocations. The Commissioners recommended making cuts to the funding for linguistic Information and Referral programs serving the Portuguese and Spanish speaking communities to put them more in line with the other CDBG funded programs since those programs were each receiving in excess of \$20,000. Commissioners also decided to level fund emergency services such as food programs, legal services homelessness prevention and legal services addressing domestic violence. Most of the rest of the programs received cuts of \$2000 which was less than the 17.5% CDBG cut received by the City. The Commission proposed to take the \$2000 cut from the East End House from its non-food pantry services consistent with the goal of keeping essential food services in place.

There was concern with TYPP's administrative capacity reflected in the late submission of their application and in their track record of missing quarterly report deadlines. In years past, late applications were considered on a case by case basis based on the track record of the agency including the monitoring results of the program and the merits of the proposal. It was

decided that because of the good work they do, TYPP be funded \$10,000 with the stipulation that they improve their administrative capacity by submitting timely reports.

Ellen mentioned that HouseWorks could be funded via the Multi Service Center eviction prevention funds and possibly ESG funds for FY12 and leave open the option for funding in the future through CDBG funds. This would free up their CDBG funds for other grantees.

Please see attached spreadsheet for final CDBG program allocations.

Commissioners expressed concern with the lack of clarity of outcomes in some of the applications and asked to revise the application for next year and add a question on whether clients from some programs interact with or are served by other CDBG funded programs.

The next Human Services Commission is scheduled for June 9, the same evening that the Red Ribbon Commission is hosting their community meeting focusing on Central Square. Ellen suggested that in lieu of holding a Commission meeting, Commissioners could attend the Red Ribbon Commission meeting. If there is enough interest Ellen will find out more about the community meeting and we will relay the information to the Human Services Commission.

Meeting adjourned.