Home4Good RFI 2020

IMPORTANT UPDATES:

The annual collaborative effort between the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh (FHLB Pittsburgh) and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) Home4Good 2020 funding process will be administered by local Continuum of Care (CoC) organizations this year.

The Philadelphia Continuum of Care (CoC) is conducting an independent and competitive internal RFI process (using PHFA’s application materials) to enable the Philadelphia CoC to select organizations to release Home4Good funding expediently, in light of the health risks presented by COVID-19.

PHFA will distribute the funding as a grant to each CoC based on its identification of the CoC’s most critical needs. As homeless prevention projects/programs are implemented, the organizations will report on progress and a database of all activities will be maintained.

The primary goal of this accelerated round is to quickly provide much-needed funds to support organizations assisting those who are most vulnerable, allowing flexibility and for critical needs to be determined at the local level. PHFA’s says that “The current health crisis demands that we rely on Continuum of Care organizations to use their expertise and experience in making the most expedient funding decisions.”

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh (FHLB Pittsburgh) has announced a funding opportunity for Homeless Service Providers throughout Pennsylvania in a collaborative effort with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). The $4.5 million Home4Good initiative, now in its third funding round, will provide funding to projects, programs, or activities that focus on the following goals:

1. Prevent homelessness: Assist households at risk for homelessness by maintaining their current housing or divert them to alternative, safe options
2. Solicit innovative solutions to end homelessness
3. Projects, programs or activities that address critical COVID19 related needs: Concentration on disparately impacted communities i.e. the poor, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, the aging and those with chronic illness.

One highlight of this grant is that eligible uses for the funding are flexible. This will allow for organizations to fill gaps in assistance needs that other funding sources can’t cover. The grant award is based on population. It is anticipated the Philadelphia CoC will be awarded up to $1.5 million.

Based on the CoC’s recent needs assessment and understanding of system-wide needs, the following have been identified as this year’s priorities to fill housing and service gaps in Philadelphia’s homeless assistance system:

I. Previously funded Home4Good project recipients:
II. Assistance at various parts of the homeless assistance system to divert people from emergency shelter, the street, or places not meant for human habitation, including:

1. People facing eviction
2. People in emergency and temporary housing programs who need financial support to pay rental and utility arrears or security deposits to transition to permanent housing
3. People re-entering the community from the criminal justice system
4. People with complex medical problems

III. Address critical COVID-19 related needs facing Philadelphia’s homeless:

1. Those in danger of homelessness due to job and wage loss related to COVID-19
2. Innovative practices that address current COVID-19 needs
3. Prevention and Diversion

IV. Low barrier employment and supportive services specifically in Rapid, TH, and PSH:

1. Increase low barrier job placement short and long term.
2. Skills development
3. Career advisement/counseling
4. Peer support to navigate employment needs.
5. Increasing income

V. Programs to serve the unique needs of Immigrants and Refugees experiencing homelessness.

VI. Increase in successful housing placement.

However, this should not limit the ideas you submit. Be creative!

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: To be considered for funding in Philadelphia, a homeless service organization must submit a proposal to the City of Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services, the Collaborative Applicant for the Philadelphia Continuum of Care (CoC). (Returning applicants may note that application materials are the same as prior years).


Information/Application

To APPLY for this grant opportunity, visit:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Home4Good2020

To CONTACT Philadelphia CoC, the Office of Homeless Services, email: Leticia.Devonish@phila.gov
The Home4good 2020 downloadable proposal submission materials are listed here for your convenience (and also found in the proposal application survey).

- Appendix B Proposed Funding Activity Form
- Administrative Expense Acknowledgement
- Home4Good Appendix A 4 pages
- Home4Good Appendix B Instructions and Example Charts
- Home4Good Appendix E 2 pages
- Home4Good Timeline for completion
- Home4Good Program Self-Review Checklist form