



# City of Denton

City Hall  
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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services

**CM/ DCM/ ACM:** Christine Taylor, ACM

**DATE:** July 12, 2024

### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding submitted Street Outreach applications.

### **STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

This action supports Key Focus Area: Foster Economic Opportunity and Affordability.

### **BACKGROUND**

Staff released applications for the Street Outreach (SO) Grant on Friday, May 31, 2024, with a due date of June 28, 2024. Staff received 3 SO applications.

### **Denton County's Housing Crisis Response System**

In Denton and throughout Denton County, our Housing Crisis Response System (HCRS) plan is to achieve our goals through the following collaborative efforts:

- **Street Outreach**: Street Outreach (SO) is a valuable tool in our HCRS to ensure that people living on the street are provided information and referrals, have access to emergency shelter (if available), are assessed through Coordinated Entry (CE) and included on the community's Housing Priority List (HPL) for housing placement, crisis intervention, and follow-up support.
- **Coordinated Entry (CE) and the Housing Priority List (HPL)**: Denton has adopted a uniform process designed to quickly identify, assess, refer and connect people in crisis to housing assistance and services. Households that complete the CE assessment process are then included in the HPL and referred to the most appropriate housing solution. Households are pulled off the HPL in order of priority status as housing assistance becomes available.
- **Diversion and Prevention**: As the most cost effective of all solutions, diversion and prevention are key components of our HCRS by reducing the number of people who become literally homeless. Homeless prevention helps households stay in their current housing situation while diversion prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, when necessary, connecting them with services.
- **Emergency Shelters and Temporary Housing**: Emergency shelter and temporary housing connects people experiencing a housing crisis or fleeing an unsafe situation to a safe place to stay. Emergency and temporary housing are on a continuum of service provision that align with the larger goals of being focused on moving people from homeless to housing.
- **Permanent Housing**: Without permanent housing, there is constant housing instability. Our HCRS includes a goal to increase our capacity to connect people experiencing homelessness with permanent housing programs, such as Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) and other stable permanent housing solutions.

## **Street Outreach Grant**

The City has prioritized investment in the Housing Crisis Response System (HCRS) as a collaborative and coordinated system response to address homelessness in our community. The HCRS is designed to achieve the community's shared goal of Making Homelessness Rare, Brief, and Nonrecurring. The HCRS is built on a continuum of services working together to meet the diverse set of needs in our community.

Street Outreach is a vital program in the HCRS continuum of services and in the City's response to unsheltered homelessness. Street Outreach provides services to unhoused people through information and referral, using diversion problem-solving skills to resolve homelessness quickly when possible, and connecting to the HCRS Coordinated Entry assessment for placement in a housing program when openings become available.

The City's approach to Street Outreach is a cross sector collaboration of internal City departments, the Denton Police Department's (DPD) Homeless Outreach Team, and nonprofit agencies. This collaborative approach identifies unhoused individuals and families living in a place not meant for habitation and uses trauma-informed care to build rapport and increase access to temporary shelter, permanent housing, and other supportive services, specifically behavioral health treatment.

The \$125,450 grant funds provided annually, over a two-year period, supports a multidisciplinary outreach team approach. Specifically, having a dedicated non-profit resource coordinating with the DPD's Homeless Outreach Team and Community Services Homeless Programs Manager to reach people experiencing literal homelessness and connect them to shelter, behavioral health services, and/or permanent housing.

### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1 – Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2 – 2024-2026 Street Outreach Grant Application

Exhibit 3 – 2024-2026 Street Outreach Grant Application Responses

Exhibit 4 – 2024-2026 Street Outreach Application Overview and Staff Scoring

Respectfully submitted:

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