



# City of Denton

City Hall  
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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services

**CM/ DCM/ ACM:** Frank Dixon, ACM

**DATE:** August 12, 2022

### **SUBJECT**

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

### **DISCUSSION**

Staff released applications for the Street Outreach (SO) Grant on Monday, July 18, 2022, with a due date of August 1, 2022. Staff received 2 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 the complex issue of 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 on multiple fronts to meet the diverse set of needs in our community.

Street outreach is a critical tool in the City's response to homelessness. Street Outreach (SO) ensures that people living on the street are provided information and referrals, diverted from homelessness through Diversion strategies (when possible), have access to housing (when available) through the Coordinated Entry (CE) assessment process for housing placement, crisis intervention, and follow-up supportive services.

People experiencing homelessness have increased barriers to housing. Through local outreach experience, reviewing existing research, and learning first-hand from other communities about evidenced-based strategies, additional tools associated with successful housing outcomes have been identified. This includes increasing the frequency of outreach to individuals living unsheltered and connecting to behavioral health services and addressing barriers to housing.

Street Outreach is a cross-sector collaboration of nonprofit agencies, Denton Police Department's (DPD) Homeless Outreach Officers, DPD's mental health initiative Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT), along with other resources such as Denton Fire Paramedics.

The \$128,450 annual grant supports a multidisciplinary outreach team approach. Specifically, having a dedicated non-profit resource coordinating with the Homeless Outreach Team to reach people experiencing literal homelessness and living with a behavioral health disorder or other housing barriers will improve housing outcomes and stability for people to move from unsheltered to sheltered and permanent housing. This grant supports case management, housing barrier elimination, counseling, diversion, and treatment for people living unsheltered.

## **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1 – Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2 – 2022-2023 Street Outreach Grant Application

Exhibit 3 – 2022-2023 Street Outreach Grant Application Responses

Exhibit 4 – 2022-2023 Street Outreach Application Overview and Staff Scoring

Respectfully submitted:  
Courtney Douangdara  
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