

C Community Development Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 30, 2010

Item: 2011-56

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date March 22, 2011
Prepared:
Subject: Board Resolution 2011-06
Authorizing Grant Execution for Minnesota Housing Agency Bridges Rental Assistance Program

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt a resolution, required by Minnesota Housing, to authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Grant Agreement Amendment with Minnesota Housing for the Bridges Program.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Council member Pistilli asked why the program costs are more this year than last year. Staff explained that the initial grant award from Minnesota Housing was lower than the amount Council staff requested to support the existing program size. Staff hoped the reduced amount would be made up through regular program attrition over the biennium. Due to the lower attrition rate, this did not occur. There was no increase in budget from one year to the next.

Council member Bowles asked how many people were on the waiting list for this program. Staff responded that there is no waiting list and that referrals are taken as slots open. There were no new participants accepted in 2010.

Council member Bowles asked if there was a waiting list preference for Bridges participants to receive Section 8. Staff responded there is not a preference at this time.

Council member Wulff asked what happened to all the people that needed this program in 2010. Staff responded that they wait until there is an open spot. Applicants on the Section 8 waiting list are waiting 3-7 years for rent assistance. Bowles asked if that is due to a lack of housing or a lack of funds. Staff responded both.

Motion made by Steffen. Seconded by Wulff

C Community Development Committee

Meeting date: February 22, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	February 1, 2011
Subject:	Board Resolution 2011-06 Authorizing Grant Execution for Minnesota Housing Agency Bridges Rental Assistance Program
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	MN Stats. Section 462A
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Terri Smith, HRA Manager
Division/Department:	Community Development Division/Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt a resolution, required by Minnesota Housing, to authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Grant Agreement Amendment with Minnesota Housing for the Bridges Program.

Background

The Council has administered the Minnesota Housing Bridges rental assistance program since 1993. The Bridges program is designed to provide a temporary tenant-based housing subsidy for persons with mental illness while the recipient is awaiting more permanent rent subsidy (Section 8 or Public Housing). Bridges operates through a successful partnership between the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and the mental health division in each county. Recipients choose rental housing in the private market where the HRA pays a portion of their rent directly to a private landlord. The County provides support services designed to enable recipients to successfully maintain an independent living environment. The Bridges program is funded bi-annually through MN Housing. The current grant period runs from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011. Due to initial decreased funding for the grant period, increased housing costs and decreased program attrition, we project a funding shortfall at the end of the biennium. In an effort to avoid terminating program participants, MN Housing has awarded an additional \$150,000 in funding for the grant period.

Rationale

Minnesota Housing requires a Council resolution at the time of funding renewal or amendment.

Funding

The total amended biennium funding award for the Bridges Program is \$2,817,000.00, including this \$150,000 increase.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known support or opposition to this resolution.

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101**

RESOLUTION NO. 2011 – 06

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT WITH THE MINNESOTA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR THE BRIDGES RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- WHEREAS:** The Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority was awarded \$2,667,000 by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) for the continued administration of the Bridges Rental Assistance Program for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.
- WHEREAS:** The Metropolitan Council is being awarded an additional \$150,000 for the current grant period, increasing the biennium funding award to \$2,817,000.
- WHEREAS:** The MHFA requires a resolution as part of the funding award process designating named signatories and authority to enter into grant agreements or other documents required for continued funding.
- WHEREAS:** The Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator the authority to execute grant award agreements and other documents required for the continuation of program funding for the MHFA Bridges Rental Assistance Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

That the Regional Administrator of the Metropolitan Council is authorized on behalf of the Metro HRA to execute the required grant agreements and other documents required by MHFA for the continuation of program funding for the Bridges Rental Assistance Program.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2011.

Susan Haigh, Chair

Dawn Hoffner, Recording Secretary