



## City of Lawrence

### 2011 Outside Agency Funding APPLICATION

**General Information:** Each year, the City Commission considers requests for the allocation of dollars to a number of agencies that provide services benefiting the Lawrence community. The decision on funding a request will be made during the City's annual budgeting process. The decision will be based upon the availability of funds, the need demonstrated through the agency's application, the stated objectives of the applicant's program, past performance by the agency in adhering to funding guidelines (as appropriate), and the ability to measure progress toward the program objectives.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT FUNDS WILL BE DISBURSED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED TO IN WRITING:**

- FIRST HALF OF FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED BEFORE APRIL 1
- SECOND HALF OF FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED BEFORE OCTOBER 1

**Instructions:** Applications for 2011 funding must be complete and submitted electronically to the City Manager's Office at [ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us) by the deadline of 5:00 pm on Monday, May 31, 2010.

**Questions?** Contact Casey Toomay, Budget Manager at [ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us) or at 785-832-3409.

**Please give your answers in the gray text fields below:**

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#### Section I. Applicant Information

Legal Name of Agency: Bert Nash CMHC

Name of Program for Which Funding is Requested: City Homeless Outreach team

Primary Contact Person: Sharon Zehr

Address: 200 Maine Suite A, Lawrence, KS 66044

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#### Section 2. Request Information

- A. Amount of funds requested from the City for this program for calendar year 2011: 164,000
- B. Will these funds be used for capital outlay (equipment or facilities) in 2011? If so, please describe:  
No
- C. Will these funds be used to leverage other funds in 2011? If so, how:
- D. Did you receive City funding for this program in 2010? If so, list the amount and source for funding (i.e. General Fund, Alcohol Fund, etc.): \$164,000
  1. How would a 2.5% reduction in city funding in 2011 impact your agency? This would not impact the agency as a whole. We have made accommodations within the team for decrease funding in the past and believe the 2.5% will not significantly impact the team.



more connected to their treatment plan and make sure they are attending appointments and maintaining mental health contacts.

We have plans to target a new population of homeless individuals, those that are temporarily "housed" at the Douglas County Jail. A recent count of the number of homeless in the jail revealed 36 out of 166 (22%) inmates were listed as either being homeless, transient or had an address of "214 W. 10th" which is the Lawrence Community Shelter. We plan to assign one of the Outreach Workers to visit the jail weekly to meet with homeless individuals who are due to be released back to the community in order to develop plans to address their needs. The Jail has recently started a reentry program and has developed initiatives to help inmates better prepare for their release back into the community, which may include a referral to the homeless outreach team. Many of these homeless inmates are in jail on municipal charges and spend a few days to a few weeks in the jail before being released. Connecting with them while they are in a stable living situation, away from negative influences that hinder their ability to connect with resources will improve their chances of success.

B. How was the need for this program determined?

This program was developed as a direct result of recommendations by the Mayor's Task Force.

C. Why should this problem/need be addressed by the City?

Homeless individuals are a part of the Lawrence community who, for a diversity of reasons including mental illness, substance abuse and recent economic challenges, are

chronically or temporarily unable to maintain housing or function successfully in the present social structure. Addressing the needs of the homeless population with direct and assertive homeless outreach has proven to be an effective tool in reaching a challenging population that often has little trust of service providers. The city, through the Mayor's Task Force, as well as through numerous committees and boards, has indicated that addressing the needs of the homeless population is of significant importance to the community at large. Our homeless outreach workers have become members of and regular attendees at the various committees and meetings targeting assistance to the homeless that are held monthly including the City Commission on Homelessness and its subcommittee, the Ineterfaith Initiative and the Coalition for Homeless Concerns. Committee members have consistently praised the work the outreach workers are doing to assist the homeless people of Lawrence.

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#### **Section 4. Description of Program Services**

- A. Provide a brief description of the service you will provide and explain how it will respond to the need you identified in Section 3. The description should include how many clients will be served, and should describe as specifically as possible the interaction that will take place between the provider and the user of the service.

The service is a community based outreach team, designed to seek out homeless individuals and families, assess their needs, provide support and/or facilitate access to necessary supportive services, housing, employment, medical treatment, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, dental care, and other basic needs. The Outreach team provides one on one, face to face interactions with homeless individuals and families as well as collateral contacts with service providers. The team is also available to support the staff of local shelters in assisting with crisis situations. The current team has completed training in the Strength's Model of Case Management which encourages developing individual plans that address the client's particular needs, pulling in their strengths and whatever natural occurring resources they already have available to them in order to reach their goals.

Since the inception of the team in 2006, community service agencies have verbalized a noticeable improvement in how effectively homeless individuals and families access services, keep appointments and follow through with service agency recommendations. These improvements have been attributed directly to the Outreach Team's supportive interactions with homeless individuals and families. This can be attributed to the team's non-judgemental approach and strong advocacy skills. The Outreach Team provides the necessary structure, support, and reminders to ensure an effective flow through the service agency systems, decreasing duplication of services, missed appointments, and the repeated "starting from scratch" that many homeless individuals and families experience regularly.

In addition to facilitating access to existing community services, the Outreach Team provides intensive and personalized support for individuals seeking employment and housing. By building

relationships with local employers and landlords, coordinating services with SRS and LDCHA back to work programs, the Outreach Team provides uniquely tailored employment and housing support services. Upon assisting individuals with obtaining employment and housing, the Outreach Specialists continue to work with these individuals as needed to facilitate reliable transportation, establish and maintain good relationships with landlords, and provide or assist with identifying resources for emergency rent and/or utility support. Once the individual or family seems to be stably housed, referrals to community agencies are made to assist clients in achieving non-housing related goals. This distinctive, wrap around service significantly increases individuals' and families' potential to maintain housing and employment beyond the term of service with the Outreach Team. After clients have demonstrated an ability to maintain housing on their own for at least 90 days and have established other service providers, we will discontinue the homeless services. One exception to this are those in transitional Housing through LDCHA, which requires a two year agreement to provide supportive services after housed. Without continued funding, many of these homeless individuals and families would fall through the cracks due to their inability and lack of skills to negotiate the complex social services network and manage the challenge of securing and sustaining housing.

- B. Describe any efforts your agency has made to explore the community to determine if there are any other agencies providing similar types of services. What efforts have you made to coordination services?

Community service providers have limited staff designated to serve Lawrence's homeless population and they do not have the flexibility to be "on the streets". The Outreach Team was designed to be co-located at various service agencies but at the same time provide the majority of their service in the community, in an "office without walls" environment. Being on the streets rather than behind a desk, decreases common barriers to services for the homeless individuals who may not feel comfortable coming into a center for assistance. The Outreach team has presented to various community groups information on the needs of the homeless population. As a result of this collaboration, a Pastor's group developed a fund that can be accessed only by the outreach team for persons who have been evicted

from housing. The Outreach Team supervisor holds weekly meetings with the outreach team and representatives from the co-located agencies to discuss cases, identify possible gaps in services, decrease probability of duplication of services and share information in order to increase service effectiveness and better outcomes for the population served. The Outreach Team supervisor meets as needed with directors of shelters and service agencies to assess service provision of the outreach specialist, identify areas of concern and develop effective strategies for correcting issues. A monthly "Homeless Services Providers" Meeting has been reinstated to include the following service providers: Bert Nash, LDCHA, ECKAN, Lawrence Community Shelter, The Ballard Center, Douglas County Jail Re-entry program, LMH, and Salvation Army. The purpose of this meeting is to work towards and more streamlined referral process. One goal established is to have all Service Providers become trained in and consistently using the HMIS system.

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## Section 5. Program Objectives

Please provide three specific program objectives for 2011. Objectives should demonstrate the purpose of the program and measure the amount of service delivered or the effectiveness of the services delivered. A time frame and numerical goal should also be included. Examples include, "75% of clients receiving job training will retain their job one year after being hired," "increased fundraising efforts will result in a 15% increase in donations in 2011," "credit counseling services will be provided to 600 clients in 2011," "new digital arts program will serve 275 students in 2011" etc. **Applicants will be expected to report their progress toward meeting these objectives in their six month and annual reports to the City.**

### Program Objectives

1. 80 % of willing eligible individuals will apply for housing assistance within 3 months of working with the Outreach Team.
2. 80 % of willing eligible individuals receiving services will complete and submit applications for Social Security benefits, General assistance, Temporary Assistance for Families, child support, Voc –Rehab and unemployment benefits within the first 30 days of working with the Outreach Team.

3. 90% of the clients identified as having mental health or substance abuse issues will be successfully referred to and connect with appropriate providers for that service.

**Please return completed application electronically to [ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us) by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 31, 2010.**