

Utah Homelessness Council (UHC)

Agenda Item - Executive Summary

Purpose:

- Decision
 - Informational
-

Meeting Date: September 21, 2023

Subject: State General Fund Recommendations: Shelter the Homeless and Switchpoint Funding Requests

Submitted by: Office of Homeless Services (OHS)

SUMMARY

The approved winter response plan submitted by the Salt Lake County Council of Governments identified 625 emergency shelter beds that are needed for the winter of 2023-2024. Of these 625 beds, 165 were proposed to be at the permanent Medically Vulnerable Population site and an additional 170 beds would be located at a new facility that would operate for the winter period only. To meet this need, a funding change and two new allocations are required.

The Medically Vulnerable Population (MVP) site was previously awarded \$3mm in grant funding from the federally funded HOME-ARP program. This money was utilized in July 2023 to complete the purchase of a building that will provide temporary shelter to individuals who are medically frail, in need of recuperative care, have underlying health conditions, have a compromised immune system, or individuals over the age of 65. A restriction of this federal funding would reduce the number of individuals that can be served by the site from 165 to 98. This reduction would put the number of available emergency shelter beds for the winter below the estimated need outlined in the approved plan. OHS is requesting the \$3mm previously awarded to the project be changed from federal HOME-ARP funds to state funds to remove this restriction created solely by the federal funding restrictions. The now uncommitted \$3mm in HOME-ARP funding will be re-released in a request for grant application at a future date.

Shelter the Homeless is also requesting an additional \$1.5mm in state funding for the MVP project to complete needed renovations to the existing structure. This funding will complete the project and allow the site to begin serving individuals who need temporary emergency shelter.

Friends of Switchpoint are requesting \$2mm in state funds to complete phase 2 of The Point at Fairpark deeply affordable housing project. This funding will allow for the construction of a community building as part of the existing housing site, which began housing households in May of 2023. Completing phase 2 of the project will allow Friends of Switchpoint to operate the 170-bed winter shelter that is required as part of the approved winter response plan. Without completion of phase 2, Friends of Switchpoint do not have the capacity to operate this temporary facility.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. OHS staff recommend the Council approve the change in funding source for the \$3mm funding previously awarded to Shelter the Homeless for the MVP project from federal HOME-ARP to state funds.
2. OHS staff recommend the Council approve the award of \$1.5mm in state funds to Shelter the Homeless to complete the renovation of the MVP project.
3. OHS staff recommend the Council approve the award of \$2mm in state funds to Friends of Switchpoint to complete phase 2 of The Point Fairpark, which is the construction of a community building as part of the existing housing site.