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A Report to the Legislature

on

Community Resource Program

Submitted by

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658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota

This report describes the types of projects undertaken and the relationships established to address community needs as outlined in the Community Resource Program.

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Community Resource Program

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Background

The Community Resource Program is a legislative human resource effort to complement the Urban Revitalization Action Plan (URAP). While URAP is aimed at physical deterioration in targeted neighborhoods, the Community Resource Program (CRP) focuses on services needed to enhance community viability. The Community resource program must address at least the following objectives:

1) increasing community safety and reducing crime;
2) enhancing family stability including school readiness;
3) providing opportunities for residents to become self supporting; and
4) building the capacity of neighborhood based organizations to create cohesiveness and stability in their communities.

Eligible applicants are public or private non-profit entities which include neighborhood coalitions, city department and agencies, law enforcement agencies, parents groups, community health and social service organizations are eligible applicants. Applicant organizations must exhibit adequate fiscal management experience and capability to ensure an audit trail for expenditures acceptable to the State auditor. Private non-profit entities must have or be eligible for and in the process of obtaining 501 C.3. tax status, or have such an agency act as fiscal agents.

The purpose of the program is to provide services in distressed neighbohoods in the cities of Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Saint Paul Community Resource Program

Saint Paul's Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) combines two component programs - - the Urban Revitalization Action Program (URAP) for physical development, and the Community Resource Program (CRP) for human services projects. The adopted NRP guidelines invited neighborhood/agency partnerships to submit proposals for funding. Three of the projects selected for funding have both URAP and CRP components.

URAP Proposals:

Proposals Received: 9 (including 5 joint URAP/CRP Proposals)
Funding Requested: $14,783,100
URAP Funding Allocated: $878,000

CRP Proposals:

Proposals Received: 41 (including 5 joint URAP/CRP proposals)
Funding Requested: $6,203,294
Proposals Funded: 23(including 3 joint URAP/CRP proposals)
CRP Funding Allocated: $2,685,494

Funded CRP Projects:

Combating Crack in Saint Paul Neighborhoods Received: $25,000

Organizations: St. Paul Community Anti-Crack Coalition. This project expands the community effort of the Saint Paul Anti-Crack Coalition to address the multiple societal problems associated with crack/cocaine trafficking, particularly in the Summit-University, Thomas-Dale and Lexington Hamline neighborhoods. This project exphasizes education and block organizing, legislative monitoring, and the development of a closer relationship with the police.

Model Cities Therapeutic Child Care Received: $100,400

Organizations: Model Cities Health Center and Wilder Foundation. These funds established a therapeutic daycare treatment program targeted to children at-risk for development delays due to prenatal drug exposure. This project provides direct services to children, parents, and families.

Health Care Services for the Uninsured and Underinsured
Received: $145,000

Organizations: The Saint Paul Community Clinic Network and Saint Paul Division of Public Health. These project funds provide comprehensive health care services to uninsured and underinsured low-income residents living in the NRP core and discretionary areas, through a coordinated network of community health centers. The focus is on high risk persons who have limited assess to the traditional health care system because of finances, language or cultural barriers.

Thomas-Dale Family Resource Center Received: $175,000

Organiations: Community Education Department of the Saint Paul Public Schools, Model Cities Health Center, Saint Paul/Ramsey Nutrition Program. These funds established a Family Resource Center in the Thomas-Dale neighborhood to improve access to health and family education services that support and assist parents in meeting the health and developmental needs of young children.

East Area Resident Unity Project — Received: $47,000

Organizations: District 2 Community council, Roosevelt Resident Council, East Side Apartment Managers' Association, Public Housing Agency of St. Paul, and the Lao Family Community. These funds are used to organize residents of specific geographic areas, teaching intercultural awareness to deal more effectively with problems facing their community.

Volunteer Coordinator for Block Nurse Program — Received: $16,000

Organizations: North End Block Nurse Program Board of Directors and Ramsey County Public Health Nursing Service. The funds support the hiring of a volunteer coordinator to recruit, train, support and maintain volunteers, and hiring of a Hmong interpreter which provide outreach to the Hmong senior population. Funds also support an ongoing program that uses nurses who live in the neighborhood to serve the elderly in their perspective neighborhoods.

Workstart Outreach — Received: $200,000

Organizations: City of St. Paul's Office of Job Creation and Training, the Wilder Foundation, Model Cities Health Center, and Ramsey County Human Services. This project strengthen families in District 7 and 8, and enable those at greatest risk of long-term welfare dependency to become self-sufficient and independent of the welfare system. Families are receiving health and social services which help them to overcome barriers to successful training and employment. This program is also garnering public and private funds to expand existing services which address neighborhood-based outreach.

Youth in Action — Received: $400,000

Organizations: Neighborhood House Association, St. Paul Office of Job Creation and Training, West Side Citizens Organization, Prevention alliance, Boys and Girls Club, Hispanos en Minnesota, Girl Scout Council of the St. Croix Valley, Torre de San Miguel and St. Paul School District. This project focuses on the West Side and provides a comprehensive partnership to promote teen-agers'prosocial interactions with school, family, and peers; availability of job training and readinesss improved quality of family life and ability to function in the community.

West Seventh Living at Home Project — Received: $40,600

Organizations: West Seventh Community Center, West Seventh Community Education, and the Ramsey County Nursing Service. Funds supports a comprehensive, community-based effort which help seniors utilize services enabling them to live safely and comfortably at home and remain part of the community.

Southeast Asian Access Project — Received: $340,000

Organizations: St. Paul's Department of Community Services, Public Schools, Public Housing Authority, Merrick Community Services, Capitol Community Services, and North End Community Health Clinic. This project activities include the placement of bilingual workers, established a Southeast Asian Advisory Group, cultural awareness training and awarded "mini-grants" to enhance Southeast Asians access to community services.

Services to Assisted Residents — Received: $168,300

Organizations: Westminster Corporation and the Public Housing Agency of the City of Saint Paul. This program identifies specific needs, provides case management, develops service plans and access services for low-income residents of eight assisted housing developments in Saint Paul.

Developing Roots in the Community — Received: $206,400

Organizations: Merrick Community Services, Eastside Neighborhood Development Company, Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service, East Consolidated Elementary School, Dayton's Bluff Elementary School, Districts 4 and 5 Councils, and St. Paul's Public Health and Housing Information Office. These funds support a broad-based partnership which focuses on Districts 4 and 5 and identifies and proposes remedies for conditions that tend to create excessive transiency within these areas.

Low Income Elderly Outreach and Education — Received: $3,500

Organizations: Highland Block Nurse Program Board of Directors and Ramsey County Public Health Nursing Service. This project identifies the health needs of low income elderly people who are isolated and who may benefits from prevention services, delaying their entry into nursing homes.

Dayton's Bluff Child Care Subsidy Received: $36,800

Organizations: Dayton's Bluff Elementary School, Discovery Club and St. Paul's Community Education, Family Education and Public Schools. These funds provides a sliding-fee subsidy for school-aged childcare for income-eligible families in District 4 who are on a one-to-two year subsidy waiting list with the county.

Neighborhood Connection Youth Development Program Received: $25,000

Organization: Lexington Hamline Community Council. This project provides neighborhood youth with the opportunity to work on issues and projects in which they have a direct self-interest. It also increases the overall participation level of neighborhood youth in organized activities through the existing Neighborhood Connection Youth Program.

Sibley Manor Family and Community Enhancement Received: $85,000

Organizations: West Seventh Community Center and the Family and Consumer Education Program of the Saint Paul Public Schools. This project places emphasis of empowering residents in addressing their own needs, and gaining access to basic support and assistance while they develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become more self-sufficient.

Home Maintenance and Improvement Education Received: $25,000

Organizations: Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development, Housing information Office, St. Paul Community Education. This project hired a coordinator to develop and conduct home maintenance classses and neighborhood seminars through the Saint Paul Community Education System.

Vacant House Program Received: $50,000

Organizations: St. Paul Coalition for Community Development, St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development. This proposal provides additional funds to a PED program designed to enable neighborhood nonprofit organizations to acquire, refurbish and resell vacant properties.

Housing Outreach Pilot Program Received: $40,000

Organization: Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development, Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service. This project hired 3 housing outreach workers to assist in marketing the city and private home improvement programs on the East Side. The project provids direct services to targeted low - income households in completing program applications.

Duluth Community Resource Program

The majority (80%) of CRP funds were dedicated to projects that serve families and children, with special interest in projects dealing with the effects and prevention of drug and alcohol abuse in families. Distressed neighborhoods in Duluth eligibile for CRP activites were identified in the following census tracts: 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32, and 34.

CRP Proposals:

Proposals Received: 41
Proposals Funded: 16
CRP Funding Allocated: $839,796

Funded Community Resource Projects:

Children 's Project — Received: $31,335.

Organization: Women's Transitional Housing. To fund a staff to work with families, parents and children which reside in transitional housing in problem solving capabilities.

Copeland Early Childhood Family Education — Received: $175,690

Organization: Independent School District #709. This program works to expand an early childhood parenting program to a full year operation, creates a "court ordered" parenting program and increased the number of families served.

Copeland Youth Recreation Project — Received: $50,000

Organization: Copeland Community Center, Inc. Funds were used to build a safe handicaped accessible playground in the city's largest housing project.

Family and Domestic Law unit — Received: $33,827

Organization: Legal Aid. Utilized funds to increase legal staff whose dutied are to reduce domestic law waiting lists. Records indicate that 25 additonal cases are now resolved per month.

Visitation and Parenting Center — Received: $42,000

Organization: Minnesota Program Development, Inc. Funds used created a model program for intervening with violent teens both directly and through parent support groups and to buy equipment needs for visitation program.

West Duluth Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator Received: $15,000

Organization: Spirit Valley Citizen Negighborhood Development Association. Provides staff to work with neighborhood residents and volunteers to provide outreach and advocacy.

Oh No! Eighteen Received: $57,042

Organization: Bethany Crisis Shelter/Lutheran Social Services. This project teaches self sufficiency skills to approximately 60 youths in the URAP target neighborhoods.

Unity for Homemakers Received: $35,000

Organization: Project S.O.A.R. for Displaced Homemakers. This project promotes minority employment and training and provides a guidance counselor sensitive to the needs of women of color.

Compulsive Gambling Prevention and Treatment Received: $40,000

Organization: Minnesota Council on Compulsive Gambling. Established an adolescent problem gambling advisory committee and developed a public education program which seeks to prevent adolescent gambling and video games addiction.

Duluth Hunger Project Received: $17,270

Organization: Duluth Hunger Coalition. This project supports programs targeted to reducing chronic hunger, the incidence of malnutrition, and the prevention of long term health effects of hunger.

Focus Redeived: $80,000

Organization: City of Duluth Job Training. These funds support a career/vocation counseling program for recovering chemically dependent youth and adults. Funds also provide support for tuition, books and fees.

Damiano Direct Service Received: $17,270

Organization: Damiano Center of Duluth. Funds support development of a new pilot program to counsel and support ex-offenders as they re-enter the community.

Mental Health Crisis Shelter Received: $48,141

Organization: Human Development Center. Funds provide a crisis shelter for persons with mental illness who are homeless or at risk, and are not appropriate for congregate shelters.

Kid's Network Received: $74,242

Organization: Lake Superior Area Family Services. The funds strengthened information and safety net for abused children through advocacy and education programming coordinated with the schools.

Visions Received: $5,500

Organization: Up to You, Inc., and I.S.D. #709. Funds provide staff to visit 9th grade classrooms and help teens get a better understanding of their value and worth as individuals.

Woodland Hills Intensive Day Treatment Received: $33,500

Organization: Woodland Hills. Funds provide services to youth and others who are at risk of out-of-home placement. This program provides intensive treatment, educational and recreational services. It is also available on evenings and weekends.

Minneapolis Community Resource Program

The Year of the Cities and Community Resource Program Advisory Council targeted programs that reduce crime, provide employment and training services, improve overall family stability, and increases neighborhood capacity. The Way To Grow Program, identified in the legislation was included in the Community Resource Program funding allocation.

Funded Community Resource Programs

Reduce Neighborhood Crime Received: $858,000

Provided neighborhood groups, community-based organizations, and others the opportunity to develop programs to reduce crime and/or the fear of crime through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

Way To Grow — Received: $350,000

Funds an initiative to establish a service delivery system to promote school readiness of Minneapolis Children by coordinating a continuum of comprehensive, community-based services that support and assist all parents in meeting the developmental needs of their children from conception through age six.

Neighborhood Planning — Received: $400,000
(20 Yr. Revitalization Plan)

This program uses funds to increase homeownership, to maintain a sound housing stock, improve housing that is substandand and increase the availability of affordable housing for low-income households.

Summer Youth Employment — Received: $200,000

Provide a program that offers summer employment for Year of the Cities area youth enriched with mentoring and exposure to career opportunities.

Emergency Program of Assistance — Received: $195,000
for Inner City Child Care Centers
(GMDCA)

Funds are used to increase employment opportunities within neighborhoods, create adequate child care facilities including private homes, address home renovation, code compliance and new facilities

Job Training (METP) — Received: $795,000

Provides employment and training opportunities to target area residents who cannot currently participate in existing employment and training programs. Provide child care for target area residents and enable them to participate in employment and training activities and seeks to develop new employment and training strategies for residents.

Family Stability — Received: $500,000

These funds enhances the abilities of families to cope with problems; to learn to be more supportive of others family members and to increase the capacity to function as a family.

Community Initiatives Program Received: $265,000

These program funds are used for self-help projects which find solutions to many small-scale neighborhood problems.

State Planning Assessment of the Community Resource Program.

The Community Resource Program implemented in the cities of St. Paul, Duluth and Minneapolis is drawing upon the resources of the community, primarily neighborhood residents to address problems which they identify. The cities are presently using the Community Resource Program fund to:

allow residents most affected by problems to develop solutions and provide services which best address their need.

allow residents to organize into community groups to assess situations, define problems and develop services and a delivery system which is welcomed and supported in the community.

allow community residents capitalize on their strengths to develop programs promoting self-sufficiency and family stability.

motivate the non-profit sector to expand their services beyond their present scope to meet the unmet needs of their clients.

provide an opportunity for service providers and community residents to explore the development of collaborative working relationships that not only benefit to themselves but are needed to promote self-sufficiency in their clients.

The funded Community Resource Programs are designed to strengthen families, neighborhoods and communities therefore allowing all segments of society to focus their efforts developing collaboratives of caring communities. The collaboratives established to date are inclusive of the people they serve, network with other service providers to enhance services and have established an outreach component to identify those clients requiring services but who are hard to reach.

The Community Resource Program provides an opportunity for organizations to develop partnerships and allows them to experiment with service delivery system designs and the testing of approaches to solve community problems. Present programs funded under this Community Resource Program should be supported until they are firmly established in developing collaborations, maintaining citizen input processes and outreach networks and enhancing the services of area service providers.

A lasting outcome of this program is the beginning of a change in the community assessment of itself. Whereas, existing programs are designed to address social ills, future programs will be designed to detect situations evolving as problems, thus, ultimately preventing problems from occurring.

The Community Resource Program provides the opportunity for citizens, community groups and local agencies to share a forum which defines problems and develop innovative ways to address problems which are not capital intensive nor service driven. Collaborative efforts for community services developed in this manner are most likely to continue after the pilot monies are gone.