

Homes for All Policy Agenda Proposal Application

Name of organization: Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Brief description of your proposal: Mahube-Otwa currently receives funding from Minnesota Housing for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance and the Housing Trust Fund Vouchers. We also have funding from the MN Department of Human Service, Office of Economic Opportunity for Transitional Housing, and Homeless Youth Act. Mahube-Otwa is also the lead Agency for the MN Department of Human Services, Community Support Program, and Support Services for the Long-Term Homeless.

Our proposal is for additional funding to be allocated for these specific programs. The Long-Term Homeless population is one of the most difficult populations to serve. They have significant barriers such as addictions, mental health issues, and/or physical disabilities that keep them from staying stably housed. Mahube-Otwa works through the Coordinated Entry, Prioritization List, where the individual with the most barriers is ranked highest. When we have an opening, we have to serve the individual that ranks highest and is at the top of the list. Serving such high need households is expensive and time consuming. We need to hire more Housing Caseworkers that can work one-on-one with these clients and assist them to overcome their barriers and be successful in maintaining housing. Transitional Housing, and Housing Trust Fund Vouchers need to also be funded at a higher level so homeless clients who are enrolled in these programs get the one-on-one support of a Housing Caseworker. We also need to hire a Housing Navigator and it will take additional funding to support this type of position. Households who have access to a Housing Caseworker and a Housing Navigator are more apt to be successful and maintain their housing.

Is this a multi-year proposal, or targeted for only one year? Our proposal is for multi-year funding.

What level of support are you requesting from Homes for All: Legislative Agenda or Homes for Endorsement? We are requesting support from Homes for All: Legislative Agenda. We are asking that one of their focus areas should be seeking additional funding dollars for FHPAP, Housing Trust Fund Vouchers, Transitional Housing and Homeless Youth Act.

If you are requesting that Homes for All put this item on our Legislative Agenda, will your organization move this proposal forward even without the leadership of Homes for All? Will your organization commit to working on the policy agenda of Homes for All even if your proposal does not make it on the agenda this year? Mahube-Otwa will do whatever we can to move this proposal forward. We need the additional funding to serve our clients. Through our experience we know that a household who receives case management is more stable and can maintain their scattered site rental units for longer periods of time. We will commit to working on the policy agenda of Homes for All, even if our proposal does not make it in the agenda this year.

What kind of resources are you able to bring to support advancement of your proposal?

(Example: dedicated lobbyist; community of engaged supporters; effective social media or communications plan; etc.) Mahube-Otwa staff and consumers go together to attend Day on the Hill activities. We hold Voter Education forums in the five counties we serve. We use our web site, emails and Facebook to reach our constituents. We plan to work with the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless in any capacity we can to get the word out to our Legislatures. We need to inform our communities as to what is needed to better serve our homeless population.

Homes for All Policy Assessment: Core Values Alignment Criteria

Name of Organization: Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Proposal: Increase funding for Minnesota Housing's Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance and Housing Trust Fund Voucher Programs. Increase funding for the Minnesota Department of Human Services Community Support Program for Support Services for the Long-Term Homeless. Increase funding for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity's Transitional Housing, and Homeless Youth Act. The additional dollars would be used to hire Housing Caseworkers and a Housing Navigator, along with providing more direct services of rent, deposits and utilities.

Does this proposal support the continuum of housing and services?	Does this proposal strengthen the connection between housing and services?	Does this proposal reduce barriers/improve access to stable housing?	Does this proposal promote choice in housing?
10 – Will directly and substantially contribute to the housing/services continuum by adding new or expanding/improving existing	10 – Will significantly strengthen existing connection in clearly articulated ways	10 – Will remove an endemic barrier or create a new point of entry for unmet needs or unserved population	10 – Will significantly expand the range of options for those who currently have very few available options
5 – Will somewhat support the housing/services continuum but not substantially	5 – Will create new connection where none is currently	5 – Will help alleviate but not remove barrier, or provide some but not full access to stable housing	5 – Will provide some limited options that do not currently exist
2 – Will have a nearly insignificant impact on the housing/services continuum	2 – Will parallel existing connection but not create new or expand existing connection	2 – May contribute minimal impact on barrier or provide slight improvement in access	2 – May provide insignificant increase in options, or rest on the assumption of free choice in market
0 – Will have no impact on the continuum	0 – Does not appear it will strengthen the connection and/or will perpetuate existing separation	0 – Does not appear it will either remove barrier or increase access to stable housing	0 – Does not appear it will promote choice in housing
<p style="text-align: center;">Comments:</p> <p>Having additional Housing Caseworkers and a Housing Navigator is a significant piece of the housing continuum. It has been our experience that households who work with a Housing Caseworker are more successful than those who don't. We do not have experience with a Housing Navigator, but feel this would be an important piece of the continuum.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Comments:</p> <p>The programs attached to this proposal will add staff including Housing Caseworkers and a Housing Navigator who would definitely strengthen the connection between housing and services. The Housing Caseworkers are vital in getting the right resources/services to the housing clients so they are successful in maintaining their housing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Comments:</p> <p>If funded, this proposal would provide additional staff to work with our long-term homeless clients, our Transitional Housing Clients, FHPAP Clients and our Youth Clients. It would provide not only additional caseworkers, but also a Housing Navigator. Combining a Housing Caseworker and Navigator we can provide stabilization services and direct services of rent, deposits and utilities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Comments:</p> <p>We need additional funds to hire a Housing Navigator who would promote choice in housing and would assist in finding the right rental unit that matches up with a client's needs. Having a Navigator would assure that clients would be moving into housing they can afford and we would have the resources to assist them to get in to the housing.</p>

Increasing funding for direct services such as rent, deposits and utilities is mainly keeping up with the higher costs of these services.					
	10	10	10	10	Add Row Together for Total Score Here: <u>40</u>

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