

2020 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

Summary and Community Partner Overview

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| Community Partner: | Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority |
| 2020 Request | \$50,000 |

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
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Community Partner Overview:

The Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority's (LDCHA) mission is to transform lives through accessible, affordable housing opportunities for all Douglas County residents. The LDCHA is the public agency charged with developing and managing affordable rental housing to address the needs of the low income in Lawrence. The agency is governed by a five-member board of commissioners, two appointed by the Douglas County Commission and three by the Mayor of the City of Lawrence. The LDCHA currently employs 40 staff. The LDCHA owns and manages 363 public housing units, including senior housing, located across the city in six different developments, and currently has 732 standard Section 8 vouchers for rental assistance paid to private landlords. Recently LDCHA acquired 19 new vouchers to be used for non-elderly disabled households. LDCHA also owns and manages 66 affordable housing units for Seniors at Clinton Place Apartments and Peterson Acres II. In addition, LDCHA operates several programs to house homeless persons including 45 HUD-VASH vouchers for homeless veterans, and two Transitional Housing programs funded through HUD's HOME programs, administering 44 transitional housing vouchers for homeless families and individuals who do not otherwise qualify for regular public housing or Section 8 assistance. The LDCHA provides housing assistance to an average of 1,250 households per month.

Service Overview - Metrics and/or data that describe the service impact:

The requested funding will be used to continue the LDCHA's New Horizons Transitional Housing Program that was created in 2015 to address the housing needs of homeless families who are guests of the Lawrence Community Shelter (Shelter). The grant provides 24 months of rental assistance and that is paired with case management provided by one of the LDCHA's ten community partners. If a household successfully completes the 24-month program, then a regular Section 8 voucher is issued to the household.

The homeless continue to be a population in need of housing and support services, but there are significant barriers for families at the Shelter. All of the LDCHA programs have a waiting list and the wait times are significant. The wait time for the HOME Transitional Housing program is 14 months, for the Section 8 program 13-18 months, and for public housing it is 8-10 months. Transitional housing is conceptualized as an intermediate step between emergency crisis shelter and permanent housing. It is more long-term, service-intensive and private than emergency shelters, yet remains time-limited to stays of 24 months. It is meant to provide a safe, supportive environment where residents can overcome trauma, begin to address the issues that led to homelessness or kept them homeless, and begin to rebuild their support network. The LDCHA's Transitional Housing Program and this New Horizons Transitional program provide the most significant opportunity for permanent housing assistance to homeless individuals and families. This application, if granted, will maintain funding for rent assistance and deposits for guests of the Shelter.

2020 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

Alignment to County Focus Areas and Collaboration:

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|--------------------|---|
| Community Partner: | Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority |
|--------------------|---|

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|---|--|
| Focus Area: | |
| <p>This grant to fund the New Horizons Transitional Housing Program is used exclusively for families who are guests of the Lawrence Community Shelter. When issued a voucher the family has the option of using the voucher with any landlord in Douglas County who is willing to rent a unit to the household. Families enrolled in the New Horizons Housing Program participate in self- sufficiency activities including Renter’s Education courses. The courses provide education and tools for families to be successful in their housing goals and understand their rights as tenants. Families also have access to the Resident Services office, which provides additional self- sufficiency supports including youth programs, wellness, employment, educational/vocational assistance, financial literacy, transportation, and case management services. LDCHA collaborates with other social service agencies who provide ongoing case management supports to the families housed in the New Horizons program.</p> <p>Research demonstrates that a housing-based approach to homelessness is not only more cost-effective than a shelter-based approach, but more effective in the long term.¹ By focusing our resources on ending homelessness, we can make real progress toward eradicating the social problem while helping the county’s most vulnerable residents.</p> | |

¹ Abt Associates, et al. Costs Associated with First Time homelessness for Families and Individuals, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, located at https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/povsoc/cost_homelessness.html

2020 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

double click on spreadsheet to open

[2020 Budget Request Detail](#)

calculated fields

| Community Partner: | Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2016 Actuals | 2017 Actuals | 2018 Actuals | 2019 Adopted Budget | 2019 Current Estimates | 2020 Budget Request |
| Revenues: | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted Fund Balance 1/1/xx | | 13,435 | 65,959 | 51,705 | 51,705 | 61,863 |
| Douglas County | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| City of Lawrence | | 100,000 | | 60,000 | 60,000 | 50,000 |
| United Way | | | | | | |
| Grants | | | | | | |
| Fundraisers | | | | | | |
| Contributions | | | | | | |
| Other: | | | | | | |
| Other: | | | | | | |
| Interest | | | | | | |
| Total Revenues: | 50,000 | 150,000 | 50,000 | 110,000 | 110,000 | 100,000 |
| Total Revenues and Fund Balance | 50,000 | 163,435 | 115,959 | 161,705 | 161,705 | 161,863 |
| Expenditures: | | | | | | Projection |
| Salaries | | 7,500 | 2,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,000 |
| Employee Benefits | | | | | | |
| Health Insurance | | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | |
| Utilities, Building Maintenance | | | | | | |
| Travel & Training | | | | | | |
| Office Equipment | | | | | | |
| Debt Payments | | | | | | |
| Other: Housing Assistance | 33,025 | 85,711 | 60,754 | 102,179 | 87,342 | 110,304 |
| Other: Security Deposits | 3,540 | 4,265 | 1,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 5,000 |
| Other: | | | | | | |
| Total Expenditures: | 36,565 | 97,476 | 64,254 | 114,679 | 99,842 | 120,304 |
| Ending Fund Balance 12/31/xx | 13,435 | 65,959 | 51,705 | 47,026 | 61,863 | 41,559 |

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2020 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

Budget Request Analysis

Community Partner: **Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority**

Analysis of Revenue Sources:

In 2018, Douglas County granted LDCHA \$50,000 of which all was obligated. In 2019, Douglas County awarded LDCHA an additional \$50,000 and the City of Lawrence awarded a joint application by LDCHA and Family Promise \$110,000. \$50,000 was awarded to hire a full time case manager that will work with all LCS New Horizon Families. The remaining \$60,000 will be used for subsidy assistance. These funds should be obligated by June, 2019.

Analysis of beginning & ending fund balances, and dedicated or restricted cash reserves:

LDCHA collaborates with the Lawrence Community Shelter to help families submit their LDCHA applications. Once applications are submitted, LDCHA reviews files and upon availability of funds the voucher is offered and both LDCHA and LCS work with the family on finding housing that meets their needs and the requirements set by HUD. On average, households require subsidy assistance of about \$9000 for 12 months meaning the program supports each household with an average of \$18,000. When money is awarded by our grant funders, based on family size of households on the waitlist LDCHA will offer vouchers to obligate the funds available. This explains the ending balance found on the budget chart, although it seems that the program has funds, these funds are part of the continued commitment to a family for the full length of the program (24months).

To date, LDCHA has served 15 households through this program; for a total of 65 individuals, 45 of which are children. There are 6 active families, there are three households searching and plans to offer 3-4 households by June 2019. Currently, New horizons has a success rate of 78%, with 4 households successfully existing the program and receiving a permanent voucher, 3 households left the program in good standing (1 moved to Colorado for a job, 2 households were employed in town and decided to go into market rent structures) and 2 households left the program in bad standing.

Analysis of expenditure changes:

No changes have been made to the analysis of expenditures.

2020 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

Supplemental Request for Additional Funding

(This is in addition to the 2020 Request amount on page 1)

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-------|
| Community Partner: | Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority | \$000 |
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Purpose for additional revenue from County:

Acquiring the requested funds from the County would result in the housing of about 3 families for 24 months.

Impact if supplemental request is not funded:

Households on the waitlist will face longer wait times till they receive assistance. This often results in the families facing extended stays at LCS, this both reduces the resources LCS has to offer to more families that may begin to experience homelessness or ultimately continues to affect the mental and physical well-being of both the parents and the children. Children who grow up in homelessness may experience long-term effects on behavior, employability, relationships and brain development. As those children grow into adulthood, society ends up paying for the consequences through law enforcement, the criminal justice system and social service programs.² Programs like New Horizon help offer a safe and supportive pathway to permanent housing, families cannot afford to wait for long-term solutions that may tackle affordable housing or income inequality. The need is present in Douglas County and until we can reach a long-term solution, programs like this need the support of their communities.

² Dickrell, S. (2016, June 04). Child homelessness can have long-term consequences. Retrieved from <https://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/homelesskids/2016/06/04/child-homelessness-can-have-long-term-consequences/84902750/>