

Community Development Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 26, 2020

Subject: Metro HRA Homework Starts with Home Funding Application Approval

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the submittal of a Homework Starts with Home funding application to Minnesota Housing for \$700,000, and authorize the Director, Community Development, to execute a funding agreement for program operation, if funds are awarded.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Terri Smith, Director of the Metro HRA, presented the staff report to the Committee. After some general questions about how the State's grant program works, the Committee passed the unanimously.

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: February 18, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 26, 2020

Subject: Metro HRA Homework Starts with Home Funding Application Approval

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 462A.204 and § 462A.201

Staff Prepared/Presented: Terri Smith, Director, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, (651) 602-1187

Division/Department: Community Development / HRA

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the submittal of a Homework Starts with Home funding application to Minnesota Housing for \$700,000, and authorize the Director, Community Development, to execute a funding agreement for program operation, if funds are awarded.

Background

Minnesota Housing is offering \$3.5 million for *Homework Starts with Home* funding. *Homework starts with Home* is a program focused on addressing homelessness among students. The program supports collaborative efforts between schools, housing organizations, and other local governments to identify, engage, and stabilize students experiencing homelessness and their families.

The program supports [Heading Home Together: Minnesota's 2018-2020 Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) and its efforts to prevent homelessness whenever possible, and if homelessness does occur, to help ensure that it is rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

The Metro HRA is partnering with Brooklyn Center Community Schools (BCCS) as part of the funding application. BCCS has adopted the Community School model, a strategy designed to help schools support students and their families so that they can fully engage in high-quality learning opportunities. BCCS has nearly 100 partnerships established with community resources to assist in student success.

The Metro HRA will provide rent assistance with the BCCS providing referral and integrated student supports at the school site. The goal is to ensure the needs of students and families are met with minimal disruption to the school day.

Funding applications are due March 3, 2020. Funding decisions will be made on March 21, 2020. If awarded, the funding period runs from August 1, 2020 through September 30, 2023. The funding request amount is \$700,000, the amount needed to support 20 students and their families with rent assistance and housing navigation funds for 36 months.

Rationale

The *Homework Starts with Home* program supports an investment in place strategy for student success.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The program supports the Thrive outcomes of prosperity, equity, and livability by providing rent assistance to low-income students and their families to live in safe,

affordable housing, connecting students and families to services to allow them to prosper and thrive in and outside of the school setting.

Funding

The *Homework Starts with Home* program is funded by Minnesota Housing. Funding for this proposed work is subject to their selection and approval of the Council's application.

Known Support / Opposition

No known support or