



# TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY

## RESOLUTION 2013-3-27 (7)

DATE: March 27, 2013  
TO: Board of Commissioners  
FROM: Michael Mirra, Executive Director  
RE: Increase in Contract Amount for Pierce County Special Program Housing Contract—Youth and Young Adults

### **Background**

The THA Board of Commissioners approved Resolution 2012-9-26 (4) allowing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Pierce County to provide rental assistance for unaccompanied youth and young adults (under 25 years of age) in the amount of \$187,500.

The contract negotiation between THA and Pierce County has been lengthy and we are nearing agreement on the contract terms. Concurrent with the months of negotiation, THA has been under-utilizing its housing assistance payments (HAP) funds as we awaited the results of sequestration and finished our plans for the HOP program. Now that our budget picture is somewhat clear, we would like to use some of the excess funds we have accumulated to increase the value of this contract and increase the number of homeless young people who can be served with existing services.

This resolution will allow THA to increase the value of the contract to \$250,000 and increase the number of youth or young adults served from 25 to 40.

Other City, County, State and Federal funds that will pay for supportive services and administrative support needed to administer this contract. All THA funds will be used for rental assistance.

The Board will remember that this contract is important to our effort to make THA's resources accessible to a growing and worrisome population of homeless youth and young adults in our City.

### **Terms**

The initial contract will be for twelve months with the option to renew on an annual basis.

This resolution would increase the value of the initial contract from \$187,500 to \$250,000. We had originally intended the \$187,500 to cover a fifteen month period in order to serve an average of 25 households per month. The increased value should allow providers to serve 40 households

per month. The service providers are also reporting that the average value of the rental assistance is \$533 per month and the average move in costs per household is \$655. For this reason, we have increased the budgeted average value of the rental assistance at \$600 per youth per month rather than the \$500 we had originally anticipated.

Under the terms of the contract, short term rental assistance valued at an average of \$600 per month per youth or young adult for up to 24 months.

### **Reporting Requirements and Evaluation**

Pierce County, through its subcontracted service providers, will be required to report on a quarterly basis on the following metrics:

- The number of households served
- Monthly subsidy paid on behalf of each household
- Length of time each household spends on the program
- In-kind value of casework provided
- Each household's income at entry to program
- Each household's income at exit from program
- Change in household income
- Change in household earned income
- Each household's housing stability 3, 6 and 12 months after exit from the program
- Number of households transitioning to another rent subsidy program upon exit

THA will aggregate this data and include it in its MTW Annual report.

### **Recommendation**

This increase in the contract amount will benefit unaccompanied youth and young adults in our community who are homeless. The increase in households served in this way should also help THA meet its MTW baseline.

The money for this contract is included in the REMHS Rental Assistance HAP budget line item.

I recommend approving Resolution 2013-3-27(7) authorizing me to execute a contract with Pierce County in the amount of \$250,000 for the purpose of providing rental assistance to homeless unaccompanied youth and young adults.



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**WHEREAS**, the City of Tacoma has a worrisome and growing population of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults (youth and young adults without families);

**WHEREAS**, THA's mainline housing programs are generally inaccessible to these young persons. They face the normal difficulty of ever getting on our waiting lists, which are generally closed. In addition, their youth and inexperience makes them unlikely even to apply. Even if they got on our waiting lists, by the time they ever got to the top of a waiting list, they would not be young anymore. Moreover, when young, they need support in addition to housing and help finding a houser to rent to them.

**WHEREAS**, Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) has an approved Moving to Work (MTW) activity allowing it to use a regional approach for administering its special purpose housing programs for service to such populations of needy persons;

**WHEREAS**, THA has chosen Pierce County to oversee some of THA's special programs, to select qualified service providers to administer the programs, and to comply with all State and Federal regulations connected with THA's Moving to Work funds;

**WHEREAS**, Pierce County has conducted a competitive process and selected qualified service providers to administer these funds for rental assistance for homeless unaccompanied youth and young adults;

**WHEREAS**, this contract is intended to provide rental assistance for at least 40 homeless unaccompanied youth and young adults each year;

**WHEREAS**, this contract will have a term of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 and may be extended for one year terms upon mutual agreement by Pierce County and THA;

**WHEREAS**, the contract amount exceeds the \$100,000 spending limit for the Executive Director.

***Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City Of Tacoma, Washington, that:***

1. The executive director is authorized and directed to execute a contract with Pierce County in the amount of \$250,000 for the purpose of providing rental assistance to homeless unaccompanied youth and young adults.

**Approved:** March 27, 2013

  
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Janis Flauding, Chair