

**CDBG Applicant Grace in Action**  
**Questions and Responses – March 20, 2006**

**Please note: I have rearranged the answers to correspond with the email list of questions I received today. Therefore, questions 1-4 refer to later questions because they were at the end rather than the beginning of our question list from Wed night March 15 to which we had initially prepared answers. Sorry for any inconvenience.**

**1) Describe in detail how your CDBG RFP differs from other CDBG RFP's.**

Please see answers to at least # 7 and 14 below.

**2) Describe in detail how your CDBG RFP supplements other CDBG RFP's.**

Please see answers to at least # 7 and 12 below.

**3) Describe in detail your efforts to coordinate with other CDBG agencies similar resources.**

Please see answers to at least questions # 5, 7, 12 and 14. We hope to increase coordination with Davis Community Clinic, in particular, to try to provide more complete and accessible healthcare for unsheltered individuals as well as to reduce costs by replacing Emergency Room healthcare with Community Clinic healthcare for YCHIP-enrolled guests. As described in paragraph 3 of the answer to #9, Grace in Action has worked to improve the communication between all community partners in order to increase our effectiveness in serving the unsheltered homeless population of Davis.

**4) Describe why your CDBG RFO is categorized under Basic Human Health Needs: Health Care when your budget summary indicates non-professional medical services. (Contracting for Addiction / Rehab services by licensed facilities / providers does not entitle you to consideration as a Health Care Provider)**

The City of Davis CDBG Grant Application Program Guidelines and Applications Forms provide a summary of services that are eligible within the Basic Human Needs category of funding. (See page 26 of the CDBG Program Booklet.) Those categories include: “Health Care; Programs to Support Independent Living; Homeless Prevention Services; Hunger Prevention Services.) Health Care and Homeless Prevention Services are two categories into which this grant proposal falls. We work with the unsheltered homeless (Homeless Prevention) and the “focus” of the grant is primarily related to “health care.” As novice CDBG grant applicants, we assumed that the overall category of our proposal was Basic Human Need. Our proposal includes financial support for guests to obtain addiction/rehab services and emergency housing for acute after-hospital care both of which we consider Programs in the Health Care category. If we should have specified Homeless Prevention instead, we apologize and hope you will allow the needed change. We felt our proposal overlapped the Health Care and Homeless Prevention categories.

**5) Please describe how the “emergency care” housing aspect of your project will operate (i.e. staffing, etc.)**

Homeless individuals who are released from the hospital often do not have any other options for housing, except to go back to the streets. Yet recovery from surgery usually requires “bed rest” and/or immobility for a period of time. It is difficult to accomplish if one must live outside. Shelter, such as a motel room for rest and recuperation, will be provided for guests who the hospital discharge nurse determines do not need medical supplies such as oxygen, daily medical supervision, etc. For example, we recently helped an individual who had “hip surgery” by working directly with a motel in Davis to provide housing. Volunteers provided meals and individual donations during his recovery.

Staffing includes direct communication between Cindy Burger, Director of Grace in Action, and/or volunteers of Grace in Action and the housed individual. In addition, Cindy works closely with motel management and staff to supervise any problems or concerns (behavior and/or other concerns) regarding “housed” guests. Staffing also includes the Director’s case management of housed guests including coordination of the following services:

- 1) Encouragement, basic education and resource support to pursue application for additional services (i.e. DCM-Shelter/Resource Center and/or care facility if necessary) that will allow them to be housed for a longer period of time once they are more mobile;
- 2) Encouragement and necessary assistance (e.g. transportation) to follow through with medical appointments;
- 3) Assistance with transportation to secure prescriptions from Woodland as no pharmacy in Davis provides prescriptions to individuals who are YCHIP patients.

**6) Does your agency currently have a working relationship with local motels already established? What local (Davis) motels / hotels are providing services?**

Motel 6 has pursued Grace in Action to establish a working relationship. We receive an automatic billing service and a discount on rooms for Grace in Action registered guests. We have also worked with the Econo Lodge. However, they are more expensive, we have a limited budget and, therefore, we use Motel 6 whenever possible.

**7. a.) How do your services fit in with other Davis services already provided to homeless individuals?**

Grace in Action serves as a referral resource to STEAC, DCM-Shelter/Resource Center, DCM Cold Weather Shelter, CommuniCare Health Centers-Davis Community Clinic (all CDBG RFPs) as well as Beamer Street Detoxification Center and Walter’s House Rehabilitation Center. Director, Cindy Burger collaborated closely with Tracy Fauver, former DCM staff member responsible for outreach. Case management at DCM-Shelter/Resource Center is focused primarily on individuals who “live” at the shelter (1111 “H” Street) and are in the 18-month transitional housing program. We complement the services of DCM by providing case management for individuals who are un-sheltered and living on the streets.

Our focus is “day time” shelter (afternoons). We do not offer overnight shelter as provided at DCM-Shelter/Resource Center or DCM Cold Weather Shelter. Grace in Action again complements DCM-Shelters by opening Grace House to guests between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. when other shelter options are closed to offer shelter as an alternative to hanging out downtown or in the parks. Grace House is open additional hours as well and if guests come to Grace House it is usually to obtain basic needs unavailable at the Resource Center (e.g., individual case management, spiritual direction, solace, outdoor gardening at what they have described as their “home away from homelessness”). In addition, we offer a volunteer prepared meal on Monday afternoon. This *supplements* the meals offered by DCM (Tuesday and Saturday only).

Some of the staff of DCM Cold Weather Shelter are also volunteers at Grace in Action so positive relationship building, reinforcement of goals and general support for guests is better informed and more consistent. This partnership will surely be more effective in meeting the basic human needs of the unsheltered homeless population in Davis. Staff at Grace in Action and DCM Cold Weather Shelter have been working together since Jan. 23, 2006 to try to provide needed assistance for people living on the streets to make changes necessary to obtain transitional and eventually permanent housing.

Additionally, Grace in Action intends its services to complement and augment those of Davis Community Clinic. Grace in Action seeks to inform and encourage enrollment of 100% of its guests in Yolo County Healthcare for Indigents Program (YCHIP) insurance so they can obtain the healthcare resources provided by Davis Community Clinic rather than the emergency room. In addition, Grace in Action staff provides guests positive reinforcement to make healthcare a priority (see also answer to question #12 below), hospital visitation, encouragement and family support if a homeless individual is hospitalized and/or dies.

Finally, Grace in Action and its community partners make referrals to STEAC for guests when appropriate. A STEAC food referral can be made only once a month. Unsheltered homeless individuals cannot carry all 15 meals/month they are entitled to if they are without transportation. In addition, the majority of guests referred by Grace in Action have no way to store the food provided. Therefore, supplementary food is needed. Emergency food is available from Grace in Action (primarily donated by our faith community partners) to *supplement* what individuals living on the street are currently able to obtain from STEAC. As detailed in the answer to question #14, STEAC motel vouchers have limited utility for guests of Grace in Action needing emergency housing.

**7. b.) Please enumerate all the new services that you are offering that are not already covered by existing programs such as the Resource Center, emergency shelter and Cold weather shelter for half the year.**

- Emergency housing will be available to individuals in need of extended bed rest or acute after care. Extended bed rest (e.g., when mobility is restricted) is seldom available to indigent individuals without Medical or Medicare coverage. STEAC motel vouchers have limited utility in this situation (see answer to #14).
- We offer a volunteer prepared meal on Monday afternoon. This *supplements* the meals offered by DCM (Tuesday and Saturday only). In addition, we provide emergency food

(and referrals) for individuals living on the street. Emergency food is available from Grace in Action (primarily donated by our faith community partners) to *supplement* what individuals living on the street are currently able to obtain from STEAC.

- We provide garden projects under the supervision of a master gardener and horticultural therapist. This program provides an outlet for frustration, increased self-esteem, positive mental health and focused activity for many of our guests.
- We plan to provide the funding assistance necessary, due to the limited amount of county funds for indigent support with rehab needs, for entry of motivated guests into a detoxification/rehabilitation program.
- We provide individual case management via the Individualized Goal Plan for unsheltered guests to assist them in establishing short-term life goals (e.g. employment, addressing health concerns, housing, etc.)
- We provide extended individual attention needed by some of our guests due to learning disabilities, mental illness or other circumstances. Individual attention is required in order for them to properly complete forms to obtain the services to which they are entitled. Grace in Action provides this assistance.

### **7.c.) Are you connecting with DCM?**

Our synergistic relationship with DCM is described in the answers to questions # 5, 7a and b.

### **8) Where is Grace House?**

Grace House is a donated house located on the Davis Community Church property at 441 “D” Street.

### **9) Describe your religious outreach.**

Our outreach is to local churches (administration and leadership) as a liaison between the unsheltered homeless who frequent the churches for assistance. For example, if an individual is homeless and goes to a religious facility for help, staff is able to refer them to Grace in Action for assistance that may include referrals to social service support agencies. This reduces the need for the religious organizations to give cash to homeless individuals and increases the possibility the individual will receive the help they actually need (i.e. referrals for food, clothing, shelter).

Grace in Action began with the support of two Davis faith communities and four years later, nine congregations are affiliated with Grace in Action (eight of which are listed on p. 3 of our proposal with the ninth being Episcopal Church of St. Martin which primarily supports DCM). We intend to continue to invite all faith communities to join us in helping our unsheltered population get the resources they need to get off of the street on a long-term basis.

Our partnership in the community has resulted in a Resource and Referral List for Unsheltered Homeless Assistance that details which community partners (faith communities, DCM Resource Center and Davis Police Dept. included) provide gas vouchers, bus tickets, STEAC referrals, food certificates or closets, basic health needs, prescription assistance and rental or motel assistance. The list is available to all community partners and has improved our communication and effectiveness in serving the unsheltered homeless population of Davis.

All services offered to guests are optional. Guests need consistent support and encouragement to make a life changing commitment regarding whatever circumstance has resulted in their homelessness (e.g. additions, health crisis, employment crisis, relational crisis, etc.). Without the support of family or case management assistance (providing resources, encouragement and reinforcement) with such a commitment, it rarely succeeds.

We are available for spiritual companionship and support only when a guest chooses to receive it. We do not practice, what our director refers to as “concussion theology” (i.e. beating someone over the head with a Bible) or require an individual to pray and/or participate in ANY religious practice prior to receiving our services. We provide spiritual companionship (listening to individual guest’s faith journeys and struggles.) It is important to educate city staff and commission members to the fact that a trained Spiritual Director is present to individuals of ALL faith backgrounds or of NO faith background. We operate on the premise that despite his/her life circumstances, every individual is worthy of compassion and love as well as hopefulness rather than despair.

**10) Related to Hannah Biberstein’s question and comment at the public hearing – Please address the relationship between the health care component of Grace in Action and the faith-based activities of the organization. For example, are the expectations that health care recipients participate in other program components? Does the faith-based component of the program impact the nature or scope of services provided?**

The project description for this proposal is focused only on obtaining the basic human need of health care for guests. Very often in order for a guest to have enough self-esteem and self worth to want to take care of his or her health, the guest must feel valued by other people and by God. Grace in Action endeavors to provide trustworthy people to support our guests. Volunteers and staff care for the well-being of our guests so that guests, in turn, will care enough about themselves and become invested in changing their lives. Volunteers from all faiths are welcome at Grace in Action to help with this effort of providing a community of support and a sense of value for unsheltered homeless individuals. We are a small organization of primarily volunteer staff and simply have not yet had the capability to reach out to all congregations. (Please also see the answer to question # 9 above.)

We welcome guests of all faiths and of no faith. All of our services (rest and respite, food, referrals, spiritual encouragement, goal planning, health services, garden participation etc.) are optional and do not require an individual to participate in any other program components. The faith-based component impacts the nature and scope of services provided only to the extent to which that faith sustains the Director and/or volunteers in their service to those in need in our community. The proposal is clear as to our collaborations both with faith communities and with community agencies and local businesses interested in serving the unsheltered homeless

population (See p. 3 Other Resources and Collaboration). Our goal has been to develop these collaborations to try to meet the needs of as many homeless individuals as possible.

**11) What direct role will the director play in source delivery?**

As the sole paid employee of Grace in Action, the Director will oversee all aspects of the CDBG grant funding, including volunteer training, program development, communication with assisting agencies and direct service. The Director will be the primary communication link between any guest requiring emergency housing and motel staff. The Director will oversee and work with trained volunteer case managers to oversee and support implementation of all Individualized Goal Plans of homeless guests.

**12) Is Grace in Action envisioning starting a clinic program? What does “actively involve medical personnel from UCD” more directly in the work of Grace in Action?**

Grace in Action has no intention of starting a clinic program. The Davis Community Clinic (another CDBG RFP) currently provides basic health services to low income individuals. However, many individuals who are homeless are either unaware of this service option, not enrolled in YCHIP and/or fearful of medical settings. In addition, detoxification and/or rehabilitation programs are extremely costly and there are limited county funds available to indigent individuals for basic health as well as addiction related support programs. Therefore, detox/rehab program fees are typically unavailable to guests who decide they want to enroll in such a program.

Our goal is to provide support from volunteers within the medical field (i.e. UC Davis Med students / staff; Kaiser; Sutter Davis) to help relieve any fear or tension related to pursuing clinic (non-emergency) assistance. This will allow them to understand the benefit of and then pursue YCHIP enrollment. In addition, we are seeking funds for low-income homeless individuals who would like to receive assistance from existing programs such as Beamer Street Detox Program in Woodland and/or Walter’s House rehabilitation program with Wayfarer’s Center in Woodland, but are unable to afford it. Providing the access to basic health care at Davis Community Clinic and to community detox/rehab programs will improve the health of the unsheltered homeless population. Grace in Action believes these steps are fundamental in making progress towards self-sufficiency.

**13) From where does the support come for the director’s position?**

The Director’s position has been supported via individual donations, fundraisers, church donations and grant funding. (We have funding from a Wells Fargo Community Reinvestment grant and a Venture Club grant as well as pending grant proposal requests.) In addition, the current working budget of Grace in Action notes that our Director, Cindy Burger, provides an in-kind donation of ½ her budgeted salary to maintain the current program services to the homeless guests until additional funding sources are secured to allow for complete salary and compensation for her work and hopefully also expansion of services where needed.

#### **14) Why don't your guests use motel vouchers from STEAC?**

We have collaborated with STEAC regarding motel vouchers when it has been appropriate. However, STEAC no longer has access to Davis motel contracts and agreements. In order to use motel vouchers via STEAC, the homeless individual must travel to West Sacramento. Individuals who are released from the local hospital seldom have the capability and/or funds to travel that distance after hospital or emergency room release. It also makes follow-up medical care more difficult. In addition, STEAC phone volunteers emphasize that STEAC services are focused primarily (motel needs) on “families.”

Emergency housed guests within this proposal need to be closer to healthcare service provision given our limited staffing for case management and support. Motel 6 in Davis has a working relationship with Grace in Action which allows for:

- 1) More convenient access by the Director and volunteers (e.g. providing meals, etc.) to guests who are housed;
- 2) Closer proximity to local hospital and/ or medical personnel at the Davis Community Clinic;
- 3) Less transportation challenge;
- 4) Closer proximity to community volunteers who may be assisting the housed individual; and
- 5) Closer proximity to Woodland, which at this time, is the only location YCHIP clients can secure their prescription medications.