



BOC Meeting Date  
February 17, 2010

Requesting Agency  
Health and Human Services Department

Commission Districts Affected  
All

Requested Action (Identify appropriate Action or Motion, purpose, cost, timeframe, etc.)  
Health and Human Services 2010 Budget Enhancement Update

Requirement for Board Action (Cite specific Board policy, statute or code requirement)  
Board of Commission request for report on progress during the 30 days following budget approval of the 2010 Human Services Budget Enhancements for Human Services Grants, FRESH Grants, and Senior Home Repair

Is this Item Goal Related? (If yes, describe how this action meets the specific Board Focus Area or Goal)  
 Yes     No    This action supports the Board of Commissioner's goals for Health and Human Services, specifically to coordinate health and social services in collaboration with the justice system and community partners and to provide prevention programs to needy and at-risk populations that enhance the quality of life.

Summary & Background (First sentence includes Agency recommendation. Provide an executive summary of the action that gives an overview of the relevant details for the item.)  
The following report provides information on progress during the 30 days following budget approval of the 2010 Human Services Budget Enhancements for Human Services Grants, FRESH Grants, and Senior Home Repair:

**1. Human Services Grant Programs: Senior Housing and Transportation - \$750,000**

Health and Human Services, Planning and Evaluation, Office of Grants and Community Partnerships is responsible for the development of the process and management of the Human Services grants. The enhancement funds will be identified separately in the specification recommendations for the Human Services Grant Request for Proposals (RFP). \$375,000 of these funds will be allocated for Senior Housing and \$375,000 will be allocated for transportation.

Senior Housing

The Senior Housing component will be operated in coordination with the Housing and Community Development Department's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs that contribute \$100,000 and \$200,000 respectively. Eligibility for HOME and CDBG single family home rehabilitation programs is 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Therefore, the target population for these enhancement funds is seniors who own their own homes who have a demonstrated inability to pay but do not qualify for the federally funded programs. The desired outcome is for seniors to be able to obtain the critical improvements that will allow them to age in place.

Staff is in the process of reviewing best practices of other organizations, specifically the Atlanta Regional Commission's Aging Services to develop specifications for this expanded area of funding.

<b>Agency Director Approval</b>		County Manager's Approval 
Typed Name and Title Jeff Cheek, Planning and Evaluation Program Administrator	Phone 404-612-4085	
Signature 	Date 12/31/2009	

With the goal of assisting our seniors with aging in place, recommended specifications are in development for these funds to be offered for housing improvements that are not currently included in our weatherization home improvements. One of the leading reasons why older adults are unable to maintain their independence is their inability to make changes in their residence to accommodate physical limitations. Examples of these types of improvements include installing ramps, widening doorways, retrofitting restrooms, etc. to allow for handicapped access within the home. These projects will average \$5,000 to \$10,000.

#### Transportation

Many seniors find it difficult to travel independently, especially if they have medical issues that require special attention. Others that do not have medical issues, have difficulty due to age related physical limitations, and could benefit from services provided by a designated assistant. Remedies include the provision of vehicle boarding assistance, which minimizes the chance of falls and injury. It has also been shown that limitations in an older person's mobility can have negative influence on their overall physical and mental health. Research indicates that seniors who maintain daily routines and social connections have higher self-rated health, increased physical activity and lower levels of depression. Passenger trip services allow seniors to participate in a wide range of activities, including shopping/errands, social gatherings, the arts, and other group activities.

Therefore, specification recommendations are in development for transportation funds to be used for improvements such as to place aides on senior transportation buses/vans to assist seniors with entering/exiting the vehicles and one-way passenger trips for such things as medical appointments, grocery shopping, etc. Specification development will be based on best practices in the field of transportation. As a part of this pilot project, we will undertake an assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of contracting this type of service versus providing this service in-house. The expected outcome of this program is improvement in mobility for our senior population which leads to improved physical and mental health.

In addition to preparing specifications for service improvements, staff is reviewing the processes and procedures currently in place for Human Services Grants to determine areas for revision. Process and procedure recommendations are in development to strengthen the application process. These include procedures that would add the benefit of community involvement, determine the funding cap and also require applicants for funding to demonstrate the ability to ensure quantitative and qualitative outcomes. Currently, there are 139 Human Services Grants with an average award of \$33,845. Staff is reviewing the current \$100,000 funding cap to determine if it is sufficient to allow for capacity building and improved outcomes for substantial numbers of clients. Increasing the cap will also allow for improvements in the monitoring of grants as the expected result is a decreased number of funded agencies.

Under consideration is a three step process by which staff would first undertake an "eligibility review" to ensure that the applicant has proper 501(c) 3 status; has an acceptable independent audit in place; is able to track and report outcomes; etc. The second step would involve submission of eligible applications to the Human Service Grants Community Advisory Boards (CABs) appointed by the Board of Commissioners for recommendations for funding with the final step being consideration by the Board of Commissioners of recommended applications.

Upon completion of draft specifications and processes and procedures, we will meet with interested Commissioners to review the recommendations. Recommendations will be incorporated into the specifications, processes and procedures and Board members will be given a final review prior to

the issuance of the Human Services Grant Request for Proposals (RFP). The process described above will be completed in the month of February so the RFP will be finalized and released in early March, 2010. Applicants will have 45 days to submit applications with a deadline of mid-April. Applications will be evaluated by staff and the CABs in late April and early May. Recommendations for funding will be made to the Board of Commissioners on May 19, with contracts let on July 1, 2010 for the contract period ending June 30, 2011.

## **2. FRESH Grant Programs: Prevention of Juvenile Crime and Delinquency - \$750,000**

Health and Human Services, Planning and Evaluation, Office of Grants and Community Partnerships is also responsible for the development of the process and management of the FRESH grants. The enhancement funding of \$750,000 was provided specifically for the prevention of juvenile crime and delinquency in support of the promotion of healthy communities. The enhancement funds will be identified separately in the specification recommendations for the FRESH Grant Request for Proposals (RFP). Specification recommendations will center on two proposed projects.

The first project will target middle and high school aged youth that have been suspended from school. Partners in this program will work with the Fulton County and City of Atlanta School Systems to provide alternatives to suspension. Programs will follow evidence-based practices and must insure that participants maintain academic standards during their enrollment. The desired outcomes will be a decrease in repeat suspensions and ultimately that participants stay in school.

The second project will target children and youth identified by DFACS that have a high likelihood of interaction with the juvenile justice system. Partners in this program will provide prevention and intervention activities including individual and family counseling to assess the needs of families and children and link them with essential resources. The desired outcome is a reduction in juvenile recidivism, which in the long term is expected to reduce the number of adult offenders.

Staff will meet with individual Commissioners to review the draft specification recommendations. Commissioners' recommendations will be incorporated into the specifications and Board members will be given a final review prior to the issuance of the FRESH Grant Request for Proposals (RFP). This process will be completed in the month of February so the RFP will be finalized and released in early March, 2010. Applicants will have 45 days to submit applications with a deadline of mid-April. Applications will be evaluated by staff and the CABs in late April and early May. Recommendations for funding will be made to the Board of Commissioners on May 19, with contracts let on July 1, 2010 for the contract period ending June 30, 2011.

## **3. Senior Home Repair Program - \$200,000**

Currently, there are approximately 400 seniors on the waiting list for the Senior Home Repair Program with Senior Citizen Services (SCS). In order to assist in addressing the needs of these seniors, \$200,000 was added as a 2010 budget enhancement. These additional funds were approved by the Board of Commissioners contemplating matching funds from the cities of Sandy Springs, Atlanta, and Johns Creek. The distribution of enhancement funds to the cities will be based on the number of low-income seniors that are homeowners in these cities.

A letter has been sent to the three (3) City Managers outlining the potential provision of matching funds to the \$200,000 County enhancement, and to determine the extent of home repair programs within the cities. If the cities have a program, Office of Aging staff will review the qualifications of the

contractor and closely monitor the progress and quality of repairs before any payments are made. If these cities do not have a senior home repair program, the Office of Aging staff will coordinate with the County's Purchasing and Legal Departments, to amend the existing contract with the Fulton County Senior Collaborative (FCSC) to allow for this increased funding.

*(Include projected cost, approved budget amount and account number, source of funds, and any future funding requirements.)*

**Exhibits Attached**

*(Provide copies of originals, number exhibits consecutively, and label all exhibits in the upper right corner.)*

**Source of Additional Information**

*(Type Name, Title, Agency and Phone)*

Jeff Cheek, Planning and Evaluation Program Administrator