

# Memorandum



**Date:** April 15, 2009

HCD  
Agenda Item no. 7(C)

**To:** Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

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**Subject:** Report- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009-Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

The following report serves to inform the members of the Housing and Community Development Committee on the approximately \$7.468 million allocated to the County, under Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, for the provision of financial assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. ARRA appropriated a total of \$1.5 billion for assistance to state and local governments for this type of assistance and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (US HUD) released a notice in the Federal Register related to this program, with an application deadline of May 18, 2009.

State and local governments may use the funds to provide short and medium term rental assistance not to exceed 18 months and housing relocation and stabilization services, as well as data collection and five percent for administrative costs. The application to US HUD requires a Substantial Amendment to the County's Consolidated Plan. The Homeless Trust has been designated as the administrator of this program on behalf of the County.

The funds under this program are intended to target individuals and families who would be homeless but for this assistance. The funds will provide for a variety of assistance, including: a) short-term or medium-term rental assistance and b) housing relocation and stabilization services including such activities as mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, legal services and case management. US HUD also requires that households served must be at or below 50 percent of Area Median Income. The funds may not be utilized for mortgage assistance but may be used to assist those households displaced from foreclosures provided they meet the income and other eligibility criteria.

At least 60 percent of funds must be spent within two years and all funds must be spent within three years. The Homeless Trust intends to issue a request for applications (RFA) process to procure the services of a countywide network of community based organizations to deliver the services. The services would be advertised countywide and the service network would leverage and build upon the existing Homeless Trust Continuum of Care which already delivers these services.

The Homeless Trust is currently working in collaboration with the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) on Plan Amendment documents. Two community meetings, in North and South Dade, will be scheduled in evening hours to obtain public comments. In order to meet the application deadline of May 18, 2009, staff will respectfully request that the item be placed directly on the May 5, 2009 meeting agenda of the Board of County Commissioners and a public hearing take place on the Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan at such time.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cynthia W. Curry", written over the printed name of Cynthia W. Curry.  
Cynthia W. Curry  
Senior Advisor to the County Manager