



MEMORANDUM

“...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life.”

TO: Community and Economic Development Committee
FROM: Nikki Gerhard, Community Development Specialist
DATE: November 8, 2017
RE: Substantial Amendment to 2017 CDBG Contract

Per the City of Appleton’s CDBG Policy and Citizen Participation Plan, if a subrecipient wishes to utilize funds for an activity not identified on their original application, they are required to submit a detailed letter to the Community and Economic Development Department explaining the reasoning for and amount of the proposed change. A 30-day public comment period must also be held prior to formal approval by the CEDC or Council.

On June 28, 2017, the CEDC approved the final 2017 CDBG award allocations for the Community Partner applicants. National Alliance on Mental Illness, or NAMI Fox Valley, originally applied for and was awarded funds for operating a peer specialist training course to prepare individuals to become certified peer specialists. Due to several interferences by the State of Wisconsin, NAMI no longer has the ability to offer the training curriculum at this time.

In light of that uncertainty, NAMI Fox Valley is requesting to modify the use of the \$10,000 CDBG award to support another program offered through the agency, Iris Place. Iris Place is a five-bedroom, peer operated, respite center that provides a safe and welcoming environment for individuals experiencing emotional distress or crisis, and allows them to grow and change through the support of others who have lived through those same or similar experiences. The respite is staffed with peer specialists 24 hours a day, year round, who provide emotional support to those staying at Iris Place and to those who make contact via the respite’s warm line.

The majority of Iris Place expenses are funded through the State of Wisconsin’s Department of Health Services; however, the full operating costs exceed the annual funding awarded. The CDBG allocation would minimize that gap and expand the peer specialist relief pool and volunteer program.

A 30-day public comment period was held from September 27, 2017 through October 26, 2017. No comments were received. As such, staff recommends the approval of the amendment to the NAMI Fox Valley 2017PY CDBG allocation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 832-6469 or nikki.gerhard@appleton.org. Thank you!