



TO: Mayor Jim Gray  
Urban County Council

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
Polly Ruddick, Director, Office of Homelessness Prevention & Intervention

CC: Sally Hamilton, CAO

DATE: June 7, 2018

SUBJECT: LexEnd Homeless Fund established at Blue Grass Community Foundation

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**Request:**

Authorization to: execute an agreement with Blue Grass Community Foundation to establish a nonprofit non-endowed fund entitled LexEnd Homeless Fund for the purpose of supporting innovative and sustainable programs to end homelessness. Donations made to the LexEnd Homeless Fund will be transferred to the Innovative and Sustainable Solutions to End Homelessness Fund within the City of Lexington at least once per year. The establishment of the fund and receipt of donations is at no cost to the City. Blue Grass Community Foundation agrees to comply with fee schedule set for donations and received by the City.

**Why are you requesting?**

Department needs this action completed because: There is a difference between managing homelessness and ending homelessness. This fund is designed solely to end homelessness, not manage it. Housing ends homelessness. These funds will not be used to support emergency shelter, transitional housing, or others functions of the system that are not permanent housing. This fund was established based on recommendation VI. B.2. in the Report of the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness – for the Greater Good, stating “the Office, in collaboration with appropriate partners, look for ways to increase the funds available through all sources”.

Lexington became a permanent housing focused community in 2014, meaning all housing investments would be made toward ending homelessness, not managing homelessness. Since 2014, Lexington has reduced chronic homelessness by 55%. The gap between where we stand now and ending chronic homelessness is defined and very obtainable. The cost, on average, is an annual investment of \$15,000 per household for at least the first three years. The OHPI knows exactly, by name, the individuals in this community that were chronically homeless on January 25, 2018, 92 individuals and 2 families. More people are becoming chronically homeless everyday as they wait for a housing voucher. A total investment of \$1.5 million annually for the next three (3) years will permanently end chronic homelessness in Lexington.



**Outcomes:**

- Reduces the amount of street involved individuals.
- Reduces the amount of panhandling.
- Reduces the amount of jail and law enforcement interactions.
- Provides those individuals and families a stable environment to recover from trauma.
- Provides the foundation that all humans need in order to be successful in their own lives.

The OHPI is taking a 3-pronged approach to be the first community in the nation to permanently end chronic homelessness. (1) Landlords: Late this year, a strategic will be developed to recruit, mobilize, and maintain current and new landlords willing to work with this population and our providers. (2) Funding: Continue federal, state, and local funding with the addition of this private fund. (3) Program Design: In the fall of 2018, stakeholders will be developing a continuous improvement plan for evidence based, best practice program design and standards as well as performance measures for ending homelessness in Lexington.

What is the cost in this budget year and future budget years?

The cost for this FY 18 is: \$0

The cost for future FY 19 is: \$0

Are the funds budgeted?

The funds are budgeted or a budget amendment is in process:

Account number:

File Number: 0657-18

Director/Commissioner: Polly Ruddick/Sally Hamilton, CAO

