

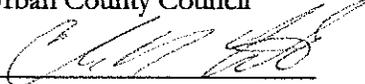


Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
OFFICE OF HOMELESSNESS
PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Jim Gray
Mayor

Charlie Lanter
Director

To: Mayor Jim Gray
Urban County Council

From: 
Charlie Lanter, Director, OHPI

Date: January 30, 2015

Re: Mental Health Court startup funding

This is to request Council authorization to execute an agreement with NAMI-Lexington (National Alliance on Mental Illness) providing startup funding for a Mental Health Court project.

NAMI Lexington was selected through a competitive bid process to serve as administrator for a new Mental Health Court operating in Fayette District Court. The 2013 report of the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness included among its top recommendations support for the creation of a Mental Health Court in Lexington. This court is a diversion program similar to drug court which seeks to treat nonviolent offenders with mental illness as an alternative to incarceration. Clients will be referred to the court of District Judge Kim Wilkie for the program where they will participate in intensive case management as part of their diversion. This project will result in housing for people who are chronically homeless because most of the clients referred to the court will be homeless or precariously housed.

The three-year project cost for LFUCG is not to exceed \$300,000 with expenses of \$150,000 in year one, \$100,000 in year two, and \$50,000 in year three. Startup funding was needed to get the court operational but several other funding options exist for ongoing support and all future funding will come from sources other than LFUCG. Funds are approved in the FY14 allocation of funding for projects in the Office of Homelessness Prevention & Intervention. Funds for years two and three will come from funds allocated to the Innovative and Sustainable Solutions to Homelessness fund and are subject to the amount allocated to that fund by Council.