

WI BOS Board of Director's
EMAIL VOTE
March 3-8, 2021



On March 3, 2021 at 3:41 pm Lisa Haen sent the following email to the BOS Board of Directors:

Good afternoon,

Due to the short turnaround of the Critical Assistance Grant below we will need to conduct an email vote that will close on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 5 pm as we discussed in the board meeting yesterday. I am requesting for a motion and a second prior to voting.

We will need someone to make a motion that the Balance of State CoC moves forward to apply for the Critical Assistance Grant or the Balance of State CoC does not move forward to apply for the Critical Assistance Grant.

Then we need someone to second the motion.....and the voting begins.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request and for taking the time.

At 3:41 pm Chandra Wakefield replied: I make a motion that the Balance of State CoC moves forward to apply for the Critical Assistance Grant.

At 3:45 pm Randall Brown replied: I will second the motion. I was excited to read about this funding opportunity and feel these funds can be put to good use here in our state.

At 3:49 pm Tara Prahll replied: Yes to the critical assistance voting item

At 4:14 pm Jessica Newman replied: I will vote to approve this motion.

At 4:44 pm Dave Eberbach replied: I feel that there should be some discussion about the motion, before a vote. Specifically about what a program might look like and particularly about how we would staff it. Does anyone have some thoughts about either of these, or other questions?

At 7:21 pm Millie Rounsville replied: Dave said it very well, that was also my concerns. This grant cannot be subcontracted out and I also wonder how it would be structured. Who is working with the client's, vendors, how many checks would need to be issued, W9s, etc. Kathleen any thoughts on this.

On 3/4/2021

At 7:20 am Wendy Schneider replied: I agree with Dave and Millie on this. Seeing it is a statewide grand and no subcontracting, how would it work.

At 8:19 am Kathleen Fisher replied: I was not on the last board call, so I am not sure what was discussed. I have a few questions:

Who manages the grant now? Does that agency support WIBOS applying? While I think it would be an interesting opportunity for WIBOSCOC, I don't want to create controversy within a member local coalition.

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*Who would manage the financial piece, WIBOS or a fiscal agent?
What additional staff will be needed?*

The agency currently has all staff working from home. Is this a service that can be administered from a home office?

At 8:21 am, in response to Wendy Schneider's response at 7:20 am Ed Wilson replied: *I would agree, my concern is the logistics of even running this program as well.*

At 8:31 am Carrie Poser replied to Kathleen's response at 8:19 am: *Foundation for Rural Housing is and had been the recipient of these funds. They are based in Madison.*

At 8:31 am Cheryl Detrick replied: *This grant for the last few cycles has been with rural housing foundation of Wisconsin. They have a statewide presence and deliver the services. For the balance of state to do this grant, the balance of state itself as an entity will have to run the program. As there can be no subcontracting. I do not feel the balance of state staff have the capacity, organizational experience - I am not saying that individually the staff are not capable – but organizationally for running direct client service programs is not something the balance of state has done. What's more, Carrie said on the board call that she would pass on this option. As such I would vote no for a balance of state to write for this grant.*

At 8:56 am Kim Cable replied: *I agree with Dave and Millie. I would have some questions on how this would be approached.*

At 9:01 am Carrie Poser sent the link to the Tuesday Board meeting for the members who were not in attendance.

At 9:02 am Michael Ethridge replied: *There are a lot of great viewpoints and questions concerning this grant. My comment is that we should have Carrie explain how the BOS will be willing to staff it and how they would execute what the grant description is asking. I don't think Carrie would write (or want to write) for a grant if she did not have a plan in mind to execute the grant like it's supposed to be done.*

At 9:17 am Lisa Haen replied to Cheryl Detrick's response at 8:31 am: *I agree that without the ability to subcontract this funding the BOS is not in a position to become a direct service provider. There is currently a significant amount of funding for eviction prevention in WI and as Carrie mentioned in the meeting it would make more sense for an agency to use this money for foreclosure prevention which does not align with the BOS mission. I also heard Carrie say she would pass on applying for this grant. With that said, I vote no for the BOS to apply for the Critical Assistance Grant.*

At 9:24 am Mike Bonertz replied: *This is a substantially different kind of work than the WIBOSCOC has been involved in. Currently, all of the work of the corporation has been subcontracted, including its staffing. Becoming a direct service provider is a significant step that changes the very nature of what we do. I believe that taking that step requires more than just applying for a grant. I vote no.*

At 9:25 am Hannah Conforti replied: *I also vote no.*

At 9:25 am Mille Rounsville replied: *For recording the vote, I also vote no.*

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At 9:25 am Chandra Wakefield replied: *I vote No.*

At 9:28 am Kristina Bechtel replied: *I'm not against pursuing an opportunity like this in the future but I agree that it doesn't seem like something the BOS should take on without a plan in place first, and with only 15 days to complete an application. My vote is no, not at this time*

At 9:31 am Michelle Fredrich replied: *I vote No.*

At 9:34 am Angela Friend replied: *I vote no.*

At 9:36 am Carrie Poser replied: *Thank you for the conversation. I would like to clarify my thoughts on this grant opportunity.*

- 1) *There is a ton of homeless and eviction prevention funds available. For these funds to be a source of last resort or gap filler as described below, I think the funding should be used for foreclosure prevention (mortgage and property tax assistance). Now, I could be wrong and would be open to that discussion.*
- 2) *The total amount of funding available for 1 year is \$282,800. Of which, 15% can be used as admin. That is \$42,420. This would leave \$240,380 in direct service costs. If the average payment is \$1000, the total number of households served would be 240 over 12 months. If the average payment is \$1500, the total number of households served would be 160 households over 12 months.*
- 3) *\$42,420 admin costs would need to include time spent monitoring, administering the program (gathering application materials, approving payments, etc), doing data entry (HMIS is required), and the financial service burden of receiving funds from the state & issuing payments to vendors.*
- 4) *While this is not something the BOS staff have done in this position, two of us have worked in direct service administering funds in this capacity in previous places of employment.*
- 5) *Structurally, I believe the BOS should administer the funds in house with the checks cut by Family Promise of Ozaukee as our current fiscal agent for WI BOS funds. The work would be done by Leigh as the Grant Specialist. It would shift her current responsibilities, removing some of the administrative responsibilities that I have shifted to her (for example - PIT/HIC process) and placing those back on my plate. Leigh already has HMIS access and is familiar with and has had experience administering a rental assistance project.*
- 6) *As for Foundation for Rural Housing, I have no information whether or not they intend to apply. They have been the recipient for a while. Our organization chose to apply previously because we could sub-contract out the funds and applied in competition for Foundation for Rural Housing.*

If the majority of the Board wants us to apply for these funds, I believe we are capable of developing a program necessary to meet the grant requirements and provide quality service to our target population. I do, however, believe that the best use of these funds is to support low income homeowners. And that is a different population that our organization typically works with. As such, I would love to see a different organization with that experience apply.

At 9:42 am Michael Ethridge replied: *I vote yes.*

At 9:54 Ed Wilson replied: *Thank you Carrie for the clarification and sharing your thoughts on*

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how this could possibly run. My vote is yes.

At 9:46 am Jessica Mudgett replied: I agree it is a different population then our organization is typically working with however people still become homeless from homeownership and Foreclosure Prevention funds are huge at this time after the pandemic and with the ADMIN funds that come with this grant it would cover the administration fees associated with our organization administering the funds.

Also, I don't think this program should rule out the rent and security deposit assistance that was utilized in the past. Not all clients who had requested that help before fell under the homeless prevention programs. This is a great addition to help someone get in an apartment on their own and I often refereed this program to clients who just needed some help with the first month. Why are we scared to give this a shot? Carrie is perfectly capable of writing this grant. Yes there are details to work out if we were to be approved, but wouldn't it be worth it if we were awarded the funds? Those details would come back to this board for approval right? I vote yes. Thank you, Carrie, for bringing this to us.

At 10:03 am Jessica Mudgett replied: The fact that these funds are for homeless prevention and are for clients statewide (except for Dane/Milwaukee/Racine counties) makes this something that falls under our organization.

At 10:08 Wendy Schneider replied: I vote no.

At 11:31 am Kim Cable replied: Thank you for the explanation, Carrie. I vote "no" for the BOSCO.

At 11:41 am Kristina Bechtel replied: After reviewing Carrie's further explanation regarding this grant opportunity I am removing my vote of 'no' and abstaining from this vote entirely as it directly impacts BOS employee, Leigh Polodna, who I have a personal relationship with.

At 2:11 pm Sara Krall replied: I vote no.

On 3/5/2021

At 6:07 am Tara Prahll replied: After reading through the discussion, I'm withdrawing my yes vote and changing it to no.

At 6:57 am David Eberbach replied: I feel that this would be a substantial change in the role of WIBOSCOC and while I am not opposed to having discussions about that for the future, I am not comfortable moving forward with this grant proposal at this time and without a thoughtful plan. I vote no. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

At 10:08 am Cheryl Detrick replied: After taking into consideration the emails yesterday (thanks Carrie!), I maintain my no vote. Since there is a statewide agency with capacity and experience and since it would turn WIBOS into a services provider, I vote no.

On March 8 at 5:00 pm the vote for the Critical Assistance closed and the results below indicate 5 in favor, 13 opposed, 1 member abstained, and 7 members did not vote.

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	VOTE	YES	NO	Abstain	Did Not Vote
1	Noel Halvorsen				X
2	Wendy Schneider		X		
3	Kristina Bechtel			X	
4	Casey Levrich				X
5	Ed Wilson	X			
6	Tara Prah		X		
7	Lisa Haen		X		
8	Michael Etheridge	X			
9	Chandra Wakefield		X		
10	Cheryl Detrick		X		
11	Millie Rounsville		X		
12	Michelle Arrowood				X
13	Kathleen Fisher				X
14	Jessica Locher				X
15	Jessica Mudgett	X			
16	Michelle Friedrich		X		
17	Hanna Conforti		X		
18	Dana Baumgartner				X
19	Jessica Neumann	X			
20	Michael Bonertz		X		
21	David Eberbach		X		
22	Sara Krall		X		
23	Angela Friend		X		
24	Melisa Myers				X
25	Randall Brown	X			
26	Kim Cable		X		
	TOTALS	5	13	1	7

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Haen

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Vice Chair

