

AIM Center, Inc.
City of Chattanooga Funding Request
SECTION I. City Code Requirements

2. Executive Summary

a. Description of the specific purpose for which the requested funds will be used to benefit the residents of the city.

AIM Center offers critically-needed psychosocial, employment, and housing services in the Chattanooga public System of Care (SOC) for mentally ill adults age 18 and older. According to average national statistics released January 2012 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the City of Chattanooga would be comprised of 20% or 33,535 individuals with a mental illness at any given time with 25% or 8,494 of those having a severe mental illness.

In the local public SOC, Fortwood Center and Johnson Mental Health Center provide traditional mental health clinical treatment modalities. People can regain their mental health, although often times not through administration of medications alone. The AIM Center's clubhouse model of psychosocial rehabilitation complements available psychiatric treatment. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, "An increasing body of research demonstrates that the Clubhouse model provides a holistic and inspiring solution that is cost-effective for people living with mental illness."

The area mental health centers, TennCare managed care contractors, and social service agencies refer and collaborate with AIM regarding the psychosocial services needed for each member/client. The array of services includes:

- Access to crisis intervention services when needed
- Assistance in accessing community-based educational resources, as well as adult basic education and GED classes on site
- Participation in supported and independent employment programs
- Assistance in securing and sustaining affordable and stable housing
- Participation in health and mental health education and fitness classes to address the premature death rate for a person with mental illness which is age 53
- A work-ordered day in which the talents and abilities of members/clients are recognized and utilized within the Clubhouse
- Participation in consensus-based decision making regarding all important matters relating to the running of the Clubhouse
- Social and recreational events.

AIM's state-of-the-art program strengthens the capacity of Chattanooga to better service the needs of those suffering from mental illness by addressing life altering issues as homelessness, substance abuse, premature death with the average life expectancy at age 53, incarceration, education set-backs, and lack of vocational skills.

b. Proposed Usage for financial assistance appropriated by the City of Chattanooga.

AIM brings \$1.1 million into the community to provide services for TennCare recipients through managed care contracts and another \$568k from the State for housing services. For the past six (6) months, AIM Center has received direct reimbursement for uninsured applicants and current

members from City of Chattanooga. After a year (FY12) with an uninsured applicant freeze, a rush of self-referred applicants and community service providers desperate to get their uninsured clients admitted to AIM has occurred. As a result, AIM's wait list has not decreased due to a rise in referrals of 67% over this same time period last year. The wait list as of December 31, 2012 is 104.

The Admissions Office is scheduling uninsured applicant appointments into March 2013. To more quickly serve all applicants to AIM Center, AIM has increased the hours of one (1) part time assistant to the Admissions Coordinator, and enrolling a full-time AmeriCorps position for an additional Admissions Assistant is a top priority. The overall census of AIM Center has seen a rise in uninsured members, from 23% to 29%. AIM Center is requesting an increased allocation of \$75,600, which represents the 6% increase in uninsured members.

AIM Center programs seek to meet five of the nine objectives in Chattanooga City Government's Strategic Long-Range Plan which include:

1. Increase educational opportunities for adults to become more economically sufficient.
2. Provide homeless households permanent stable housing.
3. Education and job training for adults and youth.
4. Life skills training.
5. Improve and impact quality of life issues for special needs populations.

AIM Center's philosophy is that recovery from mental illness is the expectation, not the exception. Support services are geared toward breaking cycles of behavior, poverty, and poor health with programs specifically designed for persons with mental illness. Together AIM Center and the City of Chattanooga can do so much more to help the mentally ill citizens of Chattanooga recover and become productive members of our community. Your consideration of this request is deeply appreciated.

- c. Assurance that the agency will provide a detailed accounting of how and for what purpose municipal funds were spent, prior to the close of the City of Chattanooga's fiscal budget year and at the close of each succeeding fiscal budget year until all municipal funds have been spent by the organization.**

Should the AIM Center's Funding Request be approved, AIM will provide a detailed accounting of how and for what purpose municipal funds are spent. The financial report will be submitted prior to the close of the City of Chattanooga's fiscal budget year and at the close of each succeeding fiscal budget year until all municipal funds have been spent by the AIM Center; along with the list of accomplishments scheduled by use of the municipal funding.

- d. Assurance that the agency will provide the City of Chattanooga with copies of current annual audits or reviews for each year that it spends funds appropriated to it by the city of Chattanooga**

The AIM Center will provide the City of Chattanooga with copies of annual audits or reviews (satisfactory to the Council's fiscal advisor) of the AIM Center for each year that we spend funds appropriated to us by the City of Chattanooga.


Rodney Battles, President

January 7, 2013

Date