



of Rome & Floyd County

Proposal: Interagency Council on Poverty & Homelessness - Coordinator

The United Way of Rome & Floyd County joins our community in acknowledging poverty and homelessness as the greatest social challenges facing Rome & Floyd County and has taken an active role in the work of the Task Force seeking to redesign and implement the Breaking the Cycle plan. The strength of any plan to address poverty and homeless in a community is contingent on support from the community and elected officials, and the work and unity of the body implementing the plan. Without prioritization, dedicated support, continual review of set goals and coordination of efforts to meet them, a plan can easily become a forgotten document.

As a local non-profit organization dedicated to driving and supporting collaborative solutions to complex challenges no single agency can address alone, the United Way wishes to offer a permanent home for our community's work toward addressing and ending poverty and homelessness as a defined Social Change Initiative under our Community Impact Model. In addition to providing 501(c)3 status for designated support, this would allow the United Way to direct a minimum of fifty percent of future Community Impact Grant funding to programs prioritized by the future Interagency Council that are a part of the collaborative plan to address these challenges. Further, the United Way of Rome & Floyd County seeks to create a permanent position to lead, coordinate, and support the Interagency Council in the development and implementation of the new community plan.

The position of Interagency Council on Poverty & Homelessness Coordinator is a permanent paid position, charged with the task of ensuring the plan remains a living document that is fully implemented. With the full support of the Interagency Council, the Coordinator will support the efforts to revise the plan and implement the goals and action steps, working closely with local non-profits, the business community and local government. The Coordinator will support the Council in identifying the budget needs of the plan and up-dating the implementation schedule yearly. In addition, the Coordinator will work with the Council to secure private and public funding for key elements of the plan.

The Interagency Council on Poverty & Homelessness Coordinator is integral to the success of the plan, providing Council participants with support and coordination, a burden otherwise left to nonprofit leaders already focused on the continued development and delivery of their own vital missions as a part of the greater effort. The Coordinator ensures the plan is a living document that is modified and updated in response to the community's changing needs, consistently measuring progress, defining and holding accountable parties responsible for each action step, assisting in identifying funding sources, and creating timelines to help the Council move the plan forward.

Initial priorities of the Coordinator:

- Support the collaborative design of and establish the Interagency Council on Poverty & Homelessness.
- Provide strategic leadership and administrative support to the Council, ensuring meetings are scheduled and facilitated; committee minutes and reports are submitted; and goals and outcomes are documented.
- Ensure subject area experts (including those from economics, education, housing, etc.) are engaged in committees to provide the knowledge and technical assistance needed to be successful.
- Communicate best practices, monitor outcomes, and combine committee data to report results across the Council and community.
- Engage the public, local organizations, businesses, local government, faith-based organizations, and neighborhood associations in supporting the revision/development of a community plan to address poverty and homelessness.
- Work with appropriate agencies and entities to find a balance between public safety needs and quality of life issues for all residents.