

# ***Creative Housing Alternatives For Maine People***



**CHAMP**  
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Maine Balance of State Continuum of Care

April 20, 2015

RE: Request of approval from the Maine Balance of State Continuum of Care for the Merger of CHAMP with York County Shelter Programs

Dear MBOS members,

Creative Housing Alternatives for Maines People (“CHAMP”) was incorporated in 1985 as a non-profit corporation to provide affordable housing to homeless and low income Maine residents and it has six properties with 29 units of housing serving homeless men, women and children in Sanford.

CHAMP was a successful applicant for Continuum of Care housing development capital funds through the 1996 Continuum of Care funding cycle and again in 2003 CHAMP was granted C of C funds for homeless housing development. CHAMP does not receive annual operational funding or services funding from the C of C.

The 17 June Street (Sanford) project was a 1996 Continuum of Care transitional housing project for six homeless youth, with C of C funds used for purchase and rehab of the property. Social services and operating expenses were provided at the site by Spurwink through a contract with Maine Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”) but the contract was cancelled by DHHS in 2009. CHAMP successfully appealed to the MBOS to be allowed to convert 17 June Street, Sanford, Maine from transitional housing for homeless youth to permanent housing for single homeless adults with disabilities. Since that time, CHAMP has contracted with York County Shelter Programs to provide the building’s tenants with both property management services, and case management/clinical staff on-site. YCSP’s range of services to residents have included mental health services, substance abuse services, case management support, financial planning, job training and transportation services.

The 2003 C of C project was developed as 7 units of supportive housing for homeless families, located in two scattered site-buildings at 7 Mousam Street, Sanford, and 15 Bates Street, Sanford. CHAMP has also contracted with York County Shelter Programs to provide these tenants with property management services and case management/clinical staff on-site.

When CHAMP was originally incorporated in 1985, its founding Board of Directors was comprised of members from Sanford Housing Authority, York County Community Action Corporation and York County Shelter Program. Since that time, Sanford Housing Authority has withdrawn from CHAMP, and York County Community Action Corporation (“YCCAC”) has focused its efforts on many other areas affecting people in poverty, but YCCAC does not have homeless, supportive housing as a primary focus of its mission. Therefore the Board of Directors of CHAMP have approached York County Shelter

Programs (“YCSP”) to request that CHAMP and its properties be merged with YCSP, and both the CHAMP Board and the YCSP Board have approved a merger once the merger has been accepted by all of the funding and regulatory agencies. Both June Street and Bates/Mousam will continue to house and serve tenants who qualify for C of C housing and services. YCSP has been providing property management and supportive services to these tenants since 2009, and therefore, YCSP is well positioned to fulfill the mission and obligations of the C of C program for the duration of the Supportive Housing Grant Agreement and the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants (please see attached).

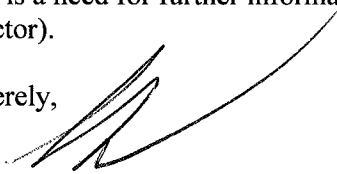
CHAMP and YCSP are simultaneously seeking approval from HUD, MaineHousing, and the Maine Balance of State Continuum of Care, and the desire is for a merger to occur as soon as possible so that CHAMP’s properties, operations and obligations would be merged into York County Shelter Programs.

YCSP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with over 30 years of experience serving homeless men, women and children with programs that help them to combat poverty and reestablish stability in permanent housing. Annually, our emergency shelter assists nearly 500 men, women and children who come from all parts of Maine. YCSP also operates several residential treatment programs, transitional housing projects, and additionally, we own and manage over 140 permanent housing units at 34 sites in 10 different town and cities. Many of these housing sites were developed with HUD C of C funding, and YCSP’s case manager and housing department are accustomed to keeping daily data and reporting to HUD, MSHA, OSA, Mainecare, DHHS, and the IRS. Staff members are trained in HMIS data entry and the HUD/Maine Universal Data elements. Our clients’ files and computer data systems track and record HUD-defined universal data elements, homeless status, client income and sources, Financial Assistance provided, housing relocation services provided, and clients’ progress based on the Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix

All of YCSP’s apartments are specifically dedicated to relocating homeless clients from homelessness and into long-term affordable housing. And, each of these housing sites provides ongoing supportive services and case management (on an individualized, as needed basis). The combination of affordable units with rental subsidies, plus the integrated community services has resulted in 94% of our (formerly homeless) clients achieving long-term housing stability.

CHAMP is requesting that the MBOS approve the merger of CHAMP into York County Shelter Programs, and if there is a need for further information, please contact, David Beseda, 207-651-1489 (YCSP Housing Development Director).

Sincerely,



Roger Prince  
Board President CHAMP