

Positive
Assistance
Action
Group



2748 Adams Ave. Ogden, Ut. 84403
801.621.2215

Request: \$300,000 annual and ongoing funding to the Positive Assistance Action Group - PAAG

Presenting Request:

Gordon Walker, Director at Housing and Community Development, State of Utah
Rhett Potter, Executive Director at PAAG, LCSW
Jan Zogmaister, Weber County Commissioner
Chair Local Homeless Coordinating Council
Chair PAAG Board

To the Social Services Appropriations Sub Committee:

Positive Assistance Action Group, PAAG was first organized in 1967 and began to hold weekly meetings with the purpose of ensuring the success of patients coming out of Utah State Mental Hospital. In 1971 PAAG was incorporated and was adopted by Weber Human Service to provide socialization for their clients. Over the years PAAG pursued their vision of property ownership as part of their mission to ensure safe affordable housing for the chronic and persistently mentally ill. Today PAAG operates 37 facilities ranging from studio units to three bedroom apartments located at scattered sites in Ogden UT providing stable housing to 101 clients and a “drop in” center providing services to over 200 people weekly. For many years PAAG was financially supported by rents and a series of contracts with Weber Human Services (WHS). With a change in state funding to WHS in 2008, PAAG funding was cut annually by \$600,000. The result was a drastic reduction in staff, the closing of two programs run by PAAG and the sale of one of its facilities. This has had a dramatic effect on the future viability and maintenance for the remaining facilities not to mention the uncertainty for the 101 people living in those units.

In 2012 PAAG established a community board with the purpose of strengthening PAAG’s position and finding solutions to the financial position of the organization. Few people know about PAAG but if it were to close and go away the entire community would feel the impact. By funding PAAG the measure of our success would be a continuation of services to this at risk population. Otherwise, the cost of alternative housing and care through the State Mental Hospital, McKay Dee Hospital and the jail would exceed \$4,000,000 and could approach \$38,000,000. PAAG has created a model to care for these individuals that has been proven to work successfully for the last 43 years.

The \$300,000 in funding that we are requesting would allow us to fully and properly staff PAAG. In addition, we will be able perform the maintenance on the facilities that has been put off for years. The needed maintenance and Capital Improvements will bring the PAAG facilities in line with today’s building standards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jed Burton • Lon Child • Chris Dallin • Robert A. Hunter • Shaun Meyers • Jan Zogmaister

Weber Human
Services

CPA, Lewis R.
Child & Co.

McKay-Dee
Hospital Center

United Way

Myers
Mortuary

Weber County
Commission