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2021 RES-272

**AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR HOTELS TO HOUSING FISCAL SERVICES
DCDHS – HAA DIVISION**

This project is funded with the County’s allocation of local aid authorized in the 2021 American Rescue Plan. Therefore, this resolution follows the format outlined in 2021 RES-013.

Justification

Authorizing Law: In March of 2021, the federal government authorized the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP) stimulus bill authorizing additional funding to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic across multiple areas of need.

Dane County was allocated over \$106 million in ARP local aid. A portion of those funds have been committed to various efforts to prevent and end homelessness and limit spread of COVID-19 through efforts to provide social distancing in the congregate shelter system. Over \$8.2 million in ARP funding was approved for the Hotels to Housing rehousing initiative for use in 2022 in the 2022 Dane County Budget.

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Preventing exposure to and spread of COVID-19 among households experiencing homelessness has been a pillar of Dane County’s pandemic response. Beginning in March of 2020, Dane County funded non-congregate hotel shelter operations and assisted with other congregate shelter expansions to quickly create critical social distancing in the community’s homeless shelter system, partnering with numerous hotels to provide rooms, and with the City of Madison, Public Health Madison-Dane County, and frontline agencies to administer the program.

In May of 2021, Dane County authorized the first phase of a historic effort to provide housing search, rental assistance, and case management services to people experiencing homelessness who are currently served by non-congregate shelter funded by Dane County. Referred to as Hotels to Housing, the program assists eligible households with up to two years of rental assistance and case management. 86 households have transitioned out of County-funded hotel shelter and into housing since the program began.

Following the results of a request for proposals (RFP) process, the Dane County Department of Human Services – Housing Access and Affordability Division (HAA) seeks to contract with Fiscal Assistance, Inc. to provide fiscal services for the Hotels to Housing initiative. The contract term will be January 1, 2022 to December 31st 2022.

As the fiscal services entity for the Hotels to Housing initiatives, Fiscal Assistance, Inc. will work in collaboration with Dane County and Hotels to Housing case management partners to make direct payments to landlords for clients who obtain housing through the program. Direct payments will include rental/utility arrears, forward rent, utilities, and security deposits.

As a fiscal agent, Fiscal Assistance, Inc. has distributed \$583,500 in rent and housing related payments on behalf of 109 currently enrolled program participants since July 2021. Under their financial management, Fiscal Assistance has distributed ARP federal relief funding for the following hotels-to-housing program costs:

- Rent Expense: \$395K

