2021 RES-270

AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR HOTELS TO HOUSING CASE MANAGEMENT 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

<u>Authorizing Law:</u> 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 (109 individuals) 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 Lutheran Social Services of Upper Michigan and Wisconsin, Inc., and The Salvation Army of Dane County to provide housing search and case management services through the Hotels to Housing initiative. The terms for the contracts will be January 1, 2022 to December 31st 2022.

Lutheran Social Services' target population for services will be adults without minor children. The Salvation Army's target population for services will be women without minor children and families with minor children.

<u>Duplication of Funding/Existing Partnerships and Programs:</u> The funding is cooperative with other housing programs, as additional housing resources are necessary to meet the local need.

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<u>Expected Outcomes and Data Collection</u>: Local program standards set by the Homeless Services Consortium (HSC) Dane County/Madison Continuum of Care for rapid re-housing

51 outcomes are 1. To work with client households to obtain permanent housing and maintain 52 housing stability after exiting the program, 2. 85% of program participants enrolled in the 53 program should exit to permanent housing within two years, 3. No more than 5% of households 54 will return to homelessness within the first year of program exit. 55 Data collected will minimally include the total number of households served, demographics of 56 program participants, the number of individuals who obtained employment and/or increased 57 income during their time in the program, the number of individuals who established connection 58 to non-emergency medical care or behavioral health supports, the average length of time in the 59 program for households. 60 61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following contracts be awarded (with terms of 62 January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022) and that the County Executive and County Clerk are 63 hereby authorized and directed to sign the agreements on behalf of Dane County, and that the 64 Controller is authorized to make payments: Vendor 65 **Contract Amount** 66 Lutheran Social Services of Upper Michigan and Wisconsin, Inc. \$628,016 67 The Salvation Army of Dane County \$257,420 68 **Total Expenditure:** \$885,436 69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board requests quarterly reports be shared with 70 the members of the County Board, and that the Health and Human Needs Committee review 71 the reports on a quarterly basis and discuss how the information presented addresses 72 anticipated program outcomes. 73 74 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that unspent funds from 2022 be carried forward for expenditure in 75 2023.