

1
2
3 **Sub 1 to 2021 RES-011**

4 **AUTHORIZING A HOUSING INITIATIVE AND A CONTRACT FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES**
5 **HOUSING NAVIGATION DCDHS – HAA DIVISION**

6 Preventing exposure to and spread of COVID-19 among households experiencing
7 homelessness has been a pillar of Dane County’s pandemic response. Beginning in March of
8 2020, Dane County funded non-congregate hotel shelter operations and assisted with other
9 congregate shelter expansions to quickly create critical social distancing in the community’s
10 homeless shelter system, partnering with numerous hotels to provide rooms, and with the City
11 of Madison, Public Health Madison-Dane County, and frontline agencies to administer the
12 program. These actions significantly prevented major spread and exposure to COVID-19 among
13 an extremely vulnerable population.

14
15 As access to vaccines continues to grow in Dane County, and more and more people choose to
16 protect themselves and others by being vaccinated, the COVID-19 response also includes
17 efforts towards community recovery. Hotel shelter will continue through August 31st. Leading up
18 to and after this date, funding is needed to assist individuals who are considered at higher risk
19 for severe COVID-19 illness, and families experiencing homelessness, with a bridge from hotels
20 to housing that includes up to two years of rent and utilities for nearly 300 households, housing
21 search assistance, and case management supports.

22
23 This is a historic opportunity to help individuals and families realize stable housing. Funding will
24 cover areas that are barriers to housing, rent, utilities, security deposits, application fees, and
25 include a move-in cost allowance per household for basic needs. The total number of
26 households served could vary based on how much assistance the household needs before
27 exiting the program.

28
29 In 2021, more than \$1.9 million in rental assistance and \$396,000 in funding for case
30 management will be allocated to assist an estimated 230 adults without children and 67 families.
31 To begin housing placement immediately, the County will seek partners that already have
32 housing case management services in place, and will issue an RFP in the summer of 2021 to
33 identify partner agencies for the program beginning in 2022 and beyond.

34
35 Over two years, Dane County’s total commitment to provide rental assistance, housing search
36 assistance, and case management ~~over two years~~ will be more than \$13 million. This resolution
37 authorizes \$2,659,760 in 2021 for direct assistance, housing search assistance, and case
38 management in 2021. \$6.3 million will be proposed in the County Executive’s 2022 budget,
39 and the balance of the two-year commitment will be included in the County Executive’s 2023
40 budget. The initiative is funded by the local aid dollars provided to Dane County through the
41 Biden Administration’s American Rescue Plan.

42
43 The anticipated outcome of this housing initiative is that households without children (adults,
44 couples) and households with children (families) will move from homelessness to housing
45 stability. The program is modeled after rapid re-housing, a program recognized as a best
46 practice nationwide that provides move-in costs and up to two years of case management.
47 Standards and goals adopted locally for that program include:

- 48
49 1. To work with guests to obtain permanent housing and maintain housing stability after
50 exiting the program.

- 51
52 2. 85% of program participants should exit to permanent housing within two years. In FY
53 2020 in Dane County:
54 a. 72% of households without children (couples, singles) exited to permanent
55 housing.
56 b. 83% of households with children (families) exited to permanent housing.
57 3. No more than 5% of households will return to homelessness within the first year of
58 program exit. In FY 2020 in Dane County:
59 a. 7% of households without children (couples, singles) returned to homelessness
60 within 1 year of program exit.
61 b. 5% of households with children (families) returned to homelessness within 1 year
62 of program exit.
63

64 Staff would also track/monitor:

- 65
66 1. Total number of households served.
67 2. Demographics of program participants.
68 3. The number of individuals who obtained employment and/or increased income during
69 their time in the program.
70 4. The number of individuals who established a connection to non-emergency medical care
71 or behavioral health supports.
72 5. Total rent/utilities/move-in costs allocated for the program, and the average cost per
73 household.
74 6. Timeliness of rental payments.
75 7. Average length of time in the program for households.
76

77 Program partners will be required to use HMIS (Homeless Management Information System),
78 the shared database homeless and housing service providers use to track performance
79 measures and program data. Program partners will also be required to collaborate with other
80 housing programs and the Homeless Services Consortium (HSC) coordinated entry system to
81 prevent program duplication.
82

83 These ongoing statistics regarding the initiative will be shared regularly with the County Board.
84

85 Rental expenses are based on the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designation
86 for fair market rent for a 1 bedroom and 3 bedroom apartment, respectively. More households
87 could be served depending on the amount and length of services needed by program
88 participants. Dane County has a historically difficult housing market, but these dollars are more
89 flexible than other sources of housing program funding, which may allow for more opportunities.
90

91 Housing navigation services currently in place must also be extended through the end of 2021 to
92 assist guests with clearing any barriers to housing and working with guests and landlords to find
93 available units. The contract amount for Catholic Charities, Inc. to continue to provide expanded
94 housing navigation services is \$267,500.

95 After units have been located and a tenant is able to move in, case management supports will be
96 provided to assist with housing stability, increasing income through employment or training for
97 advancement, and/or other goals identified by the tenant.
98

99 To begin housing placement immediately, service agencies that are operating hotel shelter
100 programs and have the closest connection to clients, such as Focus Counseling, Sankofa ELU,
101 and The Salvation Army will be asked to partner. Partners for 2022 and beyond will be identified
102 via competitive RFP process in the summer of 2021. Catholic Charities will continue to provide
103 housing navigation services. Hotel shelter case managers will also assist with housing search.
104 The County will contract with Fiscal Assistance to pay rent and utilities on behalf of the tenant.
105

106 This initiative will augment our community's existing resources for people experiencing
107 homelessness, and significantly expand the number of households who can access a program
108 of this type. Currently the need is overwhelming and funds are limited.
109

110 Households that are currently eligible for the program include:
111

112 1. Households without children (single adults, couples) currently in the vulnerable
113 population hotel shelter program considered at high risk for severe illness if they
114 contracted COVID-19. Referral criteria for this program is informed by CDC guidelines. If
115 resources are available, people who meet prioritization for hotel shelter on the wait list
116 may be served.
117

118 2. Households with children (families) currently in hotel shelter supported by Dane County
119 funding. Hotel shelter providers are primarily prioritizing families experiencing
120 homelessness with infants and families that are unsheltered. If resources are available,
121 families who meet prioritization for hotel shelter on the wait list may be served.
122

123 Eligibility for the initiative is consistent with rapid re-housing priority outlined in the current
124 supplemental written standards passed by the Dane County Homeless Services Consortium.
125

126 Enough funding is available to serve the current number of county-funded hotel guests and
127 prioritization is not needed for enrollment into the initiative. Guests who are working with case
128 managers will be moved into housing as soon as they secure a unit.
129

130 Income is not required to receive assistance through the initiative. Existing rapid re-housing
131 programs expect a tenant to contribute towards rent if they have income. Many hotel guests
132 have limited income, or are working to obtain employment or increase their income through
133 additional employment and training. Case managers will work with tenants on fiscal
134 management and other goals to help the tenant maintain housing.

135 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following contract be awarded and that the
136 County Executive and County Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign the agreement
137 on behalf of Dane County, and that the Controller is authorized to make payments.
138

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Contract Amount</u>
Catholic Charities, Inc., Diocese of Madison	\$267,500

142 **BE IT FINALLY FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following expenditure account be added in the
143 Dane County Department of Human Services and that the revenue and expenditure accounts
144 be adjusted in the amounts presented below to provide required funding through the current

145 fiscal year:
146

Revenue		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80000 81367	ARP Revenue	\$2,659,760

Expenditure		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80000 30024	ARP Rehousing Initiative	\$2,659,760

147
148 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the County Board requests monthly reports be shared with
149 the members of the County Board, and that the Health and Human Needs Committee review
150 the monthly reports on a quarterly basis and discuss how the information presented addresses
151 anticipated program outcomes.

The substitute resolution underscores the anticipated outcomes of the initiative to move about 300 households from hotels to stable housing, provides detail about program eligibility, implementation, and evaluation, and requests that on-going information be shared with the County Board and be discussed at the Health and Human Needs Committee.