

**ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM  
AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH OCCUPY MADISON, INC.**

Dane County has prioritized provision of safe sheltering options and services to people experiencing homelessness in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A [FAQ](#) issued by the CDC on September 16, 2020, states: “Because many people who are homeless are older adults or [have underlying medical conditions](#) they may also be at increased risk for severe illness than the general population. Health departments and healthcare facilities should be aware that people who are homeless are a particularly vulnerable group.” Currently, there are an estimated 200 individuals and 12 families without shelter and living outside or in places not meant for human habitation in Dane County. Many report being reluctant to go to congregate shelters due to fear of an outbreak of COVID 19 Based upon this need, the Department of Human Services has identified those who are literally homeless and primarily unsheltered (living outside or places not meant for human habitation) as the class of individuals who could be helped by establishing a program of relief designed to address the current temporary housing emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Human Services has also identified a community organization that can provide housing services to these individuals. Occupy Madison, Inc. (OM) has a plan to provide temporary emergency housing in 28 “tinier homes” to address the unmet need for people experiencing literal homelessness, primarily those living outside and in places not meant for human habitation. The long term plan is to provide opportunities for long term tiny house residency. There are no other community organizations in Dane County developing temporary emergency housing to serve persons experiencing literal homelessness and living outside and in places not meant for human habitation.

OM has purchased the property at 1901 Aberg Ave to locate these “tinier” homes by the end of the year and to develop a permanent tiny house village over the next 12 - 18 months. OM has obtained temporary zoning from the City of Madison for the tinier homes through June 1, 2021 and will be submitting plans for permanent land use approval for the permanent village in the spring of 2021.

OM will raise funds to finish landscaping and build 12-18 homes. Residents living at the village will determine the additional interior uses (e.g., coffee shop, bakery, retail store, etc.) of the building to make money to fund the village.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby establishes an Emergency Temporary Housing Program to serve people who are literally homeless, primarily those living outside and in places not meant for human habitation this winter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Human Services is hereby authorized to operate the Emergency Temporary Housing Program, and to enter into a contract with Occupy Madison, Inc. to provide the temporary emergency housing services in the winter of 2021.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors approves an agreement with Occupy Madison, Inc. in the amount of \$200,000 beginning January 1, 2021 and ending April 30, 2021 and authorizes execution of the agreement by the County Executive and County Clerk.