

**AUTHORIZING CONTRACT AMENDMENTS TO
TENANT RESOURCE CENTER, INC. AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES, INC. FOR
HOUSING STABILITY SERVICES
DCDHS – HAA DIVISION**

Housing insecurity has always been an issue in our community as the cost of housing rises with demand in a rapidly growing economy. The COVID pandemic has brought more than 36,000 new filers to unemployment, rendering thousands of new households unable to pay their rent due to job and income loss. The immediate needs to prevent eviction for those affected by the virus must be addressed or the rest of the housing and homeless services infrastructure of Dane County will be swallowed by need and therefore unable to help the most vulnerable on a mid and long-term basis.

Dane County Department of Human Services (DCDHS) Housing Access and Affordability (HAA) seeks to contract with the Tenant Resource Center (TRC) to administer a \$10 million eviction prevention fund to stave off the needs of the newly un- or underemployed as a result of COVID-19. Tenants would apply for assistance via an online application process and assessment that targets those potentially facing eviction to the best recourse for their needs. The result would be a mutual landlord-tenant agreement to provide rental assistance and avoid eviction proceedings. The funding would come wrapped in housing counseling, education for the landlord on federal mortgage protections, case management, outreach, and mediation services. A normal year would see about 2,300 eviction filings in Dane County. Estimates indicate that the pandemic could increase the need to anywhere between 6,000-12,000 evictions, costing somewhere between \$6.75 and \$13.5 million to address. This grant is intended to reach almost 9,000 residents in Dane County at risk of losing their housing. Applicants would need to prove economic hardship and a statement from the landlord of arrears status. Funds would not be dispersed unless the landlord agreed to not evict for a set period of time. TRC would double their existing capacity by hiring three limited-term staff to handle the influx of cases between June and the end of 2020. The hope is that this signal of assistance will lessen the immediate rush of court filings when the state and federal eviction moratoriums lift in late May and late July, respectively.

A parallel effort is the need to “double down” on our existing housing strategy for people experiencing homelessness who are currently being sheltered in local hotels and at the Warner Park Community Shelter. Multiple housing experts agree that we have a unique opportunity to seek permanent housing because of the stability of the current sheltering operations. This resolution would further authorize a contract in the amount of \$390,000 with Catholic Charities to augment housing navigation and limited term case management with four additional staff and making “quick move-in” funds available in the amount of \$245,000 to help with security deposit and first month rent and other needs to lessen the overall number of people unsheltered when the pandemic lifts.

The County has contracted with the Tenant Resource Center at a lump sum cost of \$10,016,100 to provide grants to prevent eviction in Dane County. The cost of the contract will be supported by the application of COVID Relief Funds. The County has also contracted with Catholic Charities in the amount of \$390,000 for housing navigation and quick move-in for our guests sheltering in hotels and at Warner Park.

52 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Board approves a contract
53 amendment in the amount of \$10,016,100 with the Tenant Resource Center (TRC) and
54 authorizes the County Executive and County Clerk to execute the contract documents,
55 and authorizes the Controller to issue a check for payment of contract invoice.
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57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Board approves a contract amendment in
58 the amount of \$390,000 with Catholic Charities and authorizes the County Executive and
59 County Clerk to execute the contract documents, and authorizes the Controller to issue
60 checks for payment of contract invoices.
61

62 **BE IT FINALLY RESOVLED** that account 80000 NEW "COVID Eviction Prevention" be
63 created with an appropriation of \$10,406,100 and that account 80000 80002 "CARES
64 ACT REVENUE" be created with an appropriation of \$10,406,100.