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2026 RES-040

**APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN DANE COUNTY AND
THE CITY OF MADISON FOR AN EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR ADULT MEN
DCDHS – HAA DIVISION**

Dane County frequently partners with the City of Madison in a number of areas to prevent and end homelessness. One of those areas is in supporting the emergency shelter system, a critical safety net for people experiencing homelessness.

Prior to the pandemic, shelter for men was provided for many years out of three smaller, separate spaces through key partnerships with several downtown Madison churches. During and since the worst of the pandemic, the men's shelter was hosted by several larger temporary locations, most recently at a former retail location on Zeier Rd. on the City of Madison's far East side.

A planning effort led by the City of Madison, and a joint effort between the City of Madison and Dane County to fund the construction and overnight operations of a purpose-built men's shelter resulted in the development of a permanent shelter located on Bartillon Drive in the City of Madison.

Dane County has invested over \$1.4 million in funds in the 2026 budget to support the shelter's operations. The City of Madison has invested over \$1.5 million in operating funds in 2026. The combined contribution is enough to fund overnight operations of the men's shelter.

The men's shelter on Bartillon Drive has a number of physical amenities to improve safety and connection to services for guests, such as six separate sleeping pods to help reduce noise, separate spaces where guests with mobility or health needs can be better served apart from the larger population, flexible meeting rooms where service providers can meet with guests, and a commercial grade kitchen to provide on-side meal preparations and employment training opportunities for shelter guests.

A geothermal system and solar panel array will help reduce energy costs for the facility and overall operation costs.

Porchlight was selected to operate the men's shelter via a competitive RFP process. Services provided by Porchlight and its agency partners will be housing-focused with the goal of increasing exists to housing, while reducing the total amount of time a guest spends in shelter.

Case management is expected to assist guests with housing search and addressing related needs including increasing income, accessing transportation and managing physical and behavioral health.

An intergovernmental agreement between Dane County and the City of Madison is needed to enable the County to support the City's efforts with County operating funds.

Intergovernmental agreements are allowed pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §66.0301, authorizing municipalities to contract with each other in order to work cooperatively in the joint exercise of their respective powers, and for the receipt and furnishing of services.

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51 While the purpose-built men's shelter is a significant step forward in the provision of services for
52 men experiencing homelessness, the need for services continues to rise. When planning began
53 for the new men's shelter in 2022, the 250-bed capacity was enough to meet the projected
54 need. Since that time, national economic pressures and a persistent housing crisis have led to a
55 local increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness. The community also lost
56 shelter bed capacity when the temporary urban campground located on Dairy Dr. in the City of
57 Madison was closed in September 2025. The nightly average number of people served at the
58 men's shelter in the month of May 2026 was 306 guests.

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60 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Dane County approves an intergovernmental
61 agreement with the City of Madison for the purposes of supporting operations of the new
62 emergency shelter for men with up to \$1,064,203 in operating funds in 2026.

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64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board is committed to addressing the
65 needs of people experiencing homelessness, including people experiencing unsheltered
66 homelessness, related to a reduction in available shelter beds.

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68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board is also committed to working with
69 the community and its partners at the City of Madison to prevent the criminalization of
70 homelessness and to work together on solutions that create lawful places for people
71 experiencing homelessness to sleep, including its efforts to support the operation of a winter
72 overflow shelter for men with a \$440,000 investment, and \$2 million in capital funding for a
73 community partner to purchase land for lawful outdoor sleeping.

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75 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the County Executive and the County Clerk are hereby
76 authorized and directed to sign the agreement on behalf of Dane County, and that the Dane
77 County Controller's Office is authorized to issue payments pursuant to the agreement.