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2023 RES-357

**AWARDING A GRANT TO THE CITY OF MADISON TO SUPPORT
OPERATION OF AN URBAN CAMPGROUND
DCDHS – HAA DIVISION**

The services in this resolution are funded in part 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

Authorizing Law: 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 has been previously committed to various efforts to promote economic and housing stability for households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. \$226,000 in ARP funding was authorized in the 2024 Dane County Budget to provide increased support for the operation of an urban campground for households experiencing homelessness.

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Enduring economic hardship that originated during the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact Dane County’s households. At one point in time in 2021, 75 – 80 people were living unsheltered in Reindahl Park in Madison, Wisconsin.

To diversify shelter options for people who are living unsheltered, and to increase shelter capacity that meets the growing number of Dane County’s neighbors experiencing homelessness, the City of Madison developed and opened an urban campground in November of 2021.

The Dairy Drive urban campground provides climate controlled palette shelter to up to 29 households experiencing homelessness. Supportive services are provided on-site, as are safe connections to water, electricity, and other basic needs for households. Since the campground has opened, the number of households experiencing unsheltered homelessness has decreased. In addition, 37 households have transitioned into permanent housing with the help of campground service provider Madison Street Medicine and other community partner agencies.

The Dane County Department of Human Services – Housing Access and Affordability Division (HAA) seeks to award a \$226,000 grant to the City of Madison to enable them to continue operation of the Dairy Drive urban campground into 2025. The grant term is from January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Duplication of Funding/Existing Partnerships and Programs: The funding is not duplicative and additional operational funding is needed to enable the urban campground to stay open into 2025, in anticipation of a new overnight shelter for adult men being completed.

Expected Outcomes and Data Collection

Expected program outcomes include the provision of safe shelter, basic needs connection and referral to community resources for households experiencing homelessness.

50 Data collection will minimally include:

- 51 i. Unduplicated number of individuals served.
- 52 ii. Demographics of individuals served.
- 53 iii. Number of individuals who left the program, and where they exited to.

54
55 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** that the County Board requests quarterly
56 reports be shared with the members of the County Board, and that the Health and Human
57 Needs Committee review the reports on a quarterly basis and discuss how the information
58 presented addresses anticipated program outcomes.

59 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a \$226,00 grant be approved for the City of Madison (term of
60 January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) and that the County Executive and County Clerk are hereby
61 authorized and directed to sign the agreement on behalf of Dane County, and that the Controller
62 is authorized to make payments:

63 <u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amendment Amount</u>
64 The City of Madison	\$226,000

65 **Total Expenditure: \$226,000**