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**2023 RES-256**

**AWARDING A CONTRACT TO CATALYST FOR CHANGE FOR  
EMERGENCY SEASONAL FAMILY SHELTER  
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 committed to various efforts to prevent and end homelessness and limit spread of COVID-19 through efforts to provide social distancing in the congregate shelter system. \$100,000 in ARP funding was authorized in the 2024 Dane County Budget to provide up to 10 slots of seasonal overflow emergency shelter for families with minor children in their care who are unhoused.

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Enduring economic hardship that originated during the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact Dane County’s families. The number of people being served by Dane County’s emergency shelters have reached historic levels.

The Salvation Army, the largest provider of emergency shelter for families, operates a wait list for their shelter with 55 families on it. The agency estimates that at any given time, up to 10 households are living in cars or other places not meant for human habitation while they wait for a spot to open up in the Salvation Army's shelter. These living conditions are particularly difficult during the winter months.

In order to increase the existing capacity of emergency family shelter, the 2024 Dane County Budget included funding to provide up to 10 slots of emergency overflow shelter for unhoused families with minor children during January - March of 2024.

The DCDHS’ HAA Division seeks to award a contract to Catalyst for Change Inc. to administer a seasonal emergency shelter program for families with minor children who are unhoused. Costs would cover the provision of shelter for up to 10 families utilizing local hotel rooms, staffing to provide the families supportive services and resource connection during their shelter stay, and direct assistance to families such as food or other basic needs supplies.

The DCDHS HAA Division currently contracts with Catalyst for Change Inc. to provide outreach services for people who are experiencing homelessness and are unsheltered, which includes administration of a short-term emergency sheltering program for more vulnerable members of the same population to access when there is an extreme weather event or similar environmental hardship.

50 The total contract amendment is \$100,000 for seasonal family overflow shelter. The contract  
51 term is January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.

52  
53 Duplication of Funding/Existing Partnerships and Programs: The funding is not duplicative and  
54 is cooperative with other shelter programs, as additional space is needed to meet the demand  
55 for shelter services.

56 **Expected Outcomes and Data Collection**

57 Expected program outcomes include the provision of safe shelter and connection to community  
58 resources for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

59 Data collection will minimally include:

- 60 i. Amount of direct assistance provided to each family.
- 61 ii. Unduplicated number of total individuals served.
- 62 iii. Unduplicated number of families served.
- 63 iv. Demographics of individuals served.
- 64 v. Current living situation of the individuals served.
- 65 vi. Number of participants connected to community services identified through  
66 individual needs assessment.
- 67 vii. Number of individuals who left the program voluntarily, and where they exited to  
68 (i.e. permanent housing, transitional housing, shelter).
- 69 viii. Number of clients served without a VI-SPDAT or in need of an updated VI-  
70 SPDAT (i.e. current living situation) will receive a VI-SPDAT assessment and  
71 complete documentation required to exit program into permanent housing.
- 72 ix. Number of referrals to and from community partners.
- 73

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

78 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a \$100,000 contract be approved for Catalyst for Change Inc.  
79 (term of January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024) and that the County Executive and County  
80 Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign the agreement on behalf of Dane County, and  
81 that the Controller is authorized to make payments:

| 82 <u>Vendor</u>            | <u>Amendment Amount</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 83 Catalyst for Change Inc. | \$100,000               |

84 **Total Expenditure: \$100,000**