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2022 RES-021

**AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR HOTELS TO HOUSING CASE MANAGEMENT
DCDHS – HAA DIVISION**

This project is funded 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 have 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. Over \$8.2 million in ARP funding was approved for the Hotels to Housing rehousing initiative for use in 2022 in the 2022 Dane County Budget.

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Preventing exposure to and spread of COVID-19 among households experiencing homelessness has been a pillar of Dane County’s pandemic response. Beginning in March of 2020, Dane County funded non-congregate hotel shelter operations and assisted with other congregate shelter expansions to quickly create critical social distancing in the community’s homeless shelter system, partnering with numerous hotels to provide rooms, and with the City of Madison, Public Health Madison-Dane County, and frontline agencies to administer the program.

In May of 2021, Dane County authorized the first phase of a historic effort to provide housing search, rental assistance, and case management services to people experiencing homelessness who are currently served by non-congregate shelter funded by Dane County. Referred to as Hotels to Housing, the program assists eligible households with up to two years of rental assistance and case management. 151 households (207 individuals) have transitioned out of County-funded hotel shelter and into housing since the program began.

Following the results of a request for proposals (RFP) process, the Dane County Department of Human Services – Housing Access and Affordability Division (HAA) seeks to contract with Equitable Social Solutions, LLC to provide housing search and case management services through the Hotels to Housing initiative. The terms for the contracts will be June 1, 2022 to December 31st 2022.

Equitable Social Solutions target population for services will be adults without minor children.

Duplication of Funding/Existing Partnerships and Programs: The funding is cooperative with other housing programs, as additional housing resources are necessary to meet the local need.

Expected Outcomes and Data Collection: Local program standards set by the Homeless Services Consortium (HSC) Dane County/Madison Continuum of Care for rapid re-housing outcomes are 1. To work with client households to obtain permanent housing and maintain

50 housing stability after exiting the program, 2. 85% of program participants enrolled in the
51 program should exit to permanent housing within two years, 3. No more than 5% of households
52 will return to homelessness within the first year of program exit.

53 Data collected will minimally include the total number of households served, demographics of
54 program participants, the number of individuals who obtained employment and/or increased
55 income during their time in the program, the number of individuals who established connection
56 to non-emergency medical care or behavioral health supports, the average length of time in the
57 program for households.

58
59 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following contract be awarded (with terms of
60 June 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022) and that the County Executive and County Clerk are
61 hereby authorized and directed to sign the agreement on behalf of Dane County, and that the
62 Controller is authorized to make payments:

63 <u>Vendor</u>	<u>Contract Amount</u>
64 Equitable Social Solutions, LLC	\$427,524

65 **Total Expenditure: \$427,524**

66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Board requests quarterly reports be shared with
67 the members of the County Board, and that the Health and Human Needs Committee review
68 the reports on a quarterly basis and discuss how the information presented addresses
69 anticipated program outcomes.

70
71 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that unspent funds from 2022 be carried forward for expenditure in
72 2023.