1 Sub _____ to 2021 RES-011 (PROPOSED-SMITH) 2 3 AUTHORIZING A HOUSING INITIATIVE AND A CONTRACT FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES 4 HOUSING NAVIGATION DCDHS – HAA DIVISION 5 6 Preventing exposure to and spread of COVID-19 among households experiencing 7 homelessness has been a pillar of Dane County's pandemic response. Beginning in March of 8 2020, Dane County funded non-congregate hotel shelter operations and assisted with other 9 congregate shelter expansions to quickly create critical social distancing in the community's 10 homeless shelter system, partnering with numerous hotels to provide rooms, and with the City 11 of Madison, Public Health Madison-Dane County, and frontline agencies to administer the 12 program. These actions significantly prevented major spread and exposure to COVID-19 among 13 an extremely vulnerable population. 14 15 As access to vaccines continues to grow in Dane County, and more and more people choose to 16 protect themselves and others by being vaccinated, the COVID-19 response also includes 17 efforts towards community recovery. Hotel shelter will continue through August 31st. Leading up 18 to and after this date, funding is needed to assist individuals who are considered at higher risk 19 for severe COVID-19 illness, and families experiencing homelessness, with a bridge from hotels 20 to housing that includes up to two years of rent and utilities for nearly 300 households, housing 21 search assistance, and case management supports. 22 23 This is a historic opportunity to help individuals and families realize stable housing. Funding will 24 cover areas that are barriers to housing, rent, utilities, security deposits, application fees, and 25 include a move-in cost allowance per household for basic needs. The total number of households served could vary based on how much assistance the household needs before 26 27 exiting the program. 28 29 In 2021, more than \$1.9 million in rental assistance and \$396,000 in funding for case 30 management will be allocated to assist an estimated 230 adults without children and 67 families. 31 To begin housing placement immediately, the County will seek partners that already have 32 housing case management services in place, and will issue an RFP in the summer of 2021 to 33 identify partner agencies for the program beginning in 2022 and beyond. 34 35 Over two years, Dane County's total commitment to provide rental assistance, housing search 36 assistance, and case management over two years will be more than \$13 million. This resolution 37 authorizes \$2,659,760 in 2021 for direct assistance, housing search assistance, and case 38 management in 2021. ; \$6.3 million will be proposed in the County Executive's 2022 budget, and the balance of the two-year commitment will be included in the County Executive's 2023 39 40 budget. The initiative is funded by the local aid dollars provided to Dane County through the 41 Biden Administration's American Rescue Plan. 42 43 The anticipated outcome of this housing initiative is that households without children (adults, 44 couples) and households with children (families) will move from homelessness to housing stability. The program is modeled after rapid re-housing, a program recognized as a best 45 46 practice nationwide that provides move-in costs and up to two years of case management. 47 Standards and goals adopted locally for that program include: 48 1. To work with guests to obtain permanent housing and maintain housing stability after 49 50 exiting the program.

51					
52	2. 85% of program participants should exit to permanent housing within two years. In FY				
53	2020 in Dane County:				
54	a. 72% of households without children (couples, singles) exited to permanent				
55	housing.				
56	b. 83% of households with children (families) exited to permanent housing.				
57	3. No more than 5% of households will return to homelessness within the first year of				
58	program exit. In FY 2020 in Dane County:				
59	a. 7% of households without children (couples, singles) returned to homelessness				
60	within 1 year of program exit.				
61	b. 5% of households with children (families) returned to homelessness within 1 year				
62	<u>of program exit.</u>				
63					
64	Staff would also track/monitor:				
65					
66	1. Total number of households served.				
67	2. Demographics of program participants.				
68	The number of individuals who obtained employment and/or increased income during				
69	their time in the program.				
70	4. The number of individuals who established a connection to non-emergency medical care				
71	or behavioral health supports.				
72	5. Total rent/utilities/move-in costs allocated for the program, and the average cost per				
73	household.				
74	6. Timeliness of rental payments.				
75	7. Average length of time in the program for households.				
76					
77	Program partners will be required to use HMIS (Homeless Management Information System),				
78	the shared database homeless and housing service providers use to track performance				
79	measures and program data. Program partners will also be required to collaborate with other				
80	housing programs and the Homeless Services Consortium (HSC) coordinated entry system to				
81	prevent program duplication.				
82					
83	These ongoing statistics regarding the initiative will be shared regularly with the County Board.				
84					
85	Rental expenses are based on the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designation				
86	for fair market rent for a 1 bedroom and 3 bedroom apartment, respectively. More households				
87	could be served depending on the amount and length of services needed by program				
88	participants. Dane County has a historically difficult housing market, but these dollars are more				
89	flexible than other sources of housing program funding, which may allow for more opportunities.				
90	Lieuring agriculture continue compatibility place groupt classing output ded through the and of 0004 to				
91 02	Housing navigation services currently in place must also be extended through the end of 2021 to				
92	assist guests with clearing any barriers to housing and working with guests and landlords to find				
93	available units. The contract amount for Catholic Charities, Inc. to continue to provide expanded				
94	housing navigation services is \$267,500.				
95	After units have been located and a tenant is able to move in, case management supports will be				
95 96	provided to assist with housing stability, increasing income through employment or training for				
90 97	advancement, and/or other goals identified by the tenant.				
98					

99	To begin housing placement immediately, service agencies that are operating hotel shelter					
100	programs and have the closest connection to clients, such as Focus Counseling, Sankofa ELU,					
101	and The Salvation Army will be asked to partner. Partners for 2022 and beyond will be identified					
102	via competitive RFP process in the summer of 2021. Catholic Charities will continue to provide					
103	housing navigation services. Hotel shelter case managers will also assist with housing search.					
104	The County will contract with Fiscal Assistance to pay rent and utilities on behalf of the tenant.					
105						
106	This ir	nitiative will augment our community's existing resources f	or people experiencing			
107	homelessness, and significantly expand the number of households who can access a program					
108	of this type. Currently the need is overwhelming and funds are limited.					
109						
110	House	holds that are currently eligible for the program include:				
111						
112	1	Households without children (single adults, couples) cur	rently in the vulnerable			
113	<u></u>	population hotel shelter program considered at high risk				
114		contracted COVID-19. Referral criteria for this program is				
115		resources are available, people who meet prioritization f				
116		may be served.	of noter sheller of the wait list			
117		may be served.				
118	2	Households with children (families) currently in hotel she	alter supported by Dane County			
119	<u> </u>	funding. Hotel shelter providers are primarily prioritizing				
120		homelessness with infants and families that are unshelte				
120		families who meet prioritization for hotel shelter on the w				
122		Tarimes who meet phontization for noter sheller on the w	ait list may be served.			
122	Eligihi	lity for the initiative is consistent with rapid re-housing pric	vrity outlined in the current			
123		emental written standards passed by the Dane County Ho				
124	<u>supple</u>	mental whiten standards passed by the Dane County no	meless Services Consolitum.			
125	Enour	the funding is available to carve the surrent number of cour	aty funded botal guests and			
120	Enough funding is available to serve the current number of county-funded hotel guests and					
	prioritization is not needed for enrollment into the initiative. Guests who are working with case					
128	managers will be moved into housing as soon as they secure a unit.					
129						
130	Incom	e is not required to receive assistance through the initiativ	e Existing rapid re-bousing			
131	Income is not required to receive assistance through the initiative. Existing rapid re-housing					
132	programs expect a tenant to contribute towards rent if they have income. Many hotel guests					
132	have limited income, or are working to obtain employment or increase their income through					
134	additional employment and training. Case managers will work with tenants on fiscal management and other goals to help the tenant maintain housing.					
134	manay		<u>ig.</u>			
135	NOW	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following con	ntract be awarded and that the			
136	County Executive and County Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign the agreement					
137	on behalf of Dane County, and that the Controller is authorized to make payments.					
138						
139	Vendo	ır	Contract Amount			
140		<u>//</u> lic Charities, Inc., Diocese of Madison	\$267,500			
140	Camo		ΨΖ01,500			
171						
142	BE IT	FINALLY FURTHER RESOLVED that the following expe	nditure account be added in the			
4.40		Or the Department of Liver and the state of the second state of th				

Dane County Department of Human Services and that the revenue and expenditure accounts
be adjusted in the amounts presented below to provide required funding through the current

145 fiscal year:

Revenue

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Account Number 80000 81367 ARP Revenue Expenditure Account Number Account Title Amount 80000 30024 **ARP** Rehousing Initiative \$2,659,760 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Dane County shall create a rapid rehousing-style program to house individuals and families experiencing homelessness prioritizing those who are eligible for the county funded hotel shelter program, including individuals on the waitlist for the hotel shelter program, those who are unsheltered, then those who are sheltered to the extent funding is available. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the rapid rehousing-style program initiated by this resolution shall not be subject to the Dane County Continuum of Care (CoC) written standards as it relates to rapid rehousing program eligibility and the population to be served by the program but the

- 157 general provisions of the written standards shall apply.
- 158

159 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Human Services'- Housing Access and 160 Affordability staff and relevant staff from the Department of Planning and Development shall 161 work with the Dane County Housing Initiative to promote the rehousing programs, and other housing program opportunities, and secure partnerships for rehousing people experiencing 162 163 homelessness. 164 165 **BE IT FINALLY FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Board requests quarterly reports be 166 shared with the members of the County Board, and that the Health and Human Needs Committee review the reports on a quarterly basis and discuss how the information presented 167 168 addresses anticipated program outcomes, including, but not limited to the spending rate of the rent assistance and utility allocations based on the number and type of housing placements. 169 170 171 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that if the rapid rehousing-style program funds are underspent the

172 county shall reprogram the money for other services, which could include prevention, outreach, 173 shelter, or permanent supportive housing, using an RFP process.

The substitute resolution underscores the anticipated outcomes of the initiative to move about 300 households from hotels to stable housing, provides detail about program eligibility, implementation, and evaluation, and requests that on-going information be shared with the County Board and be discussed at the Health and Human Needs Committee.

Account Title

Amount \$2,659,760