2021 RES-011

## AUTHORIZING A HOUSING INITIATIVE AND A CONTRACT FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES HOUSING NAVIGATION DCDHS – HAA DIVISION

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. These actions significantly prevented major spread and exposure to COVID-19 among an extremely vulnerable population.

As access to vaccines continues to grow in Dane County, and more and more people choose to protect themselves and others by being vaccinated, the COVID-19 response also includes efforts towards community recovery. Hotel shelter will continue through August 31st. Leading up to and after this date, funding is needed to assist individuals who are considered at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness, and families experiencing homelessness, with a bridge from hotels to housing that includes up to two years of rent and utilities for nearly 300 households, housing search assistance, and case management supports.

In 2021, more than \$1.9 million in rental assistance and \$396,000 in funding for case management will be allocated to assist an estimated 230 adults without children and 67 families. To begin housing placement immediately, the County will seek partners that already have housing case management services in place, and will issue an RFP in the summer of 2021 to identify partner agencies for the program beginning in 2022 and beyond.

Over two years, Dane County's total commitment to provide rental assistance, housing search assistance, and case management over two years will be more than \$13 million.

Rental expenses are based on the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designation for fair market rent for a 1 bedroom and 3 bedroom apartment, respectively. More households could be served depending on the amount and length of services needed by program participants.

Housing navigation services currently in place must also be extended through the end of 2021 to assist guests with clearing any barriers to housing and working with guests and landlords to find available units. The contract amount for Catholic Charities, Inc. to continue to provide expanded housing navigation services is \$267,500.

After units have been located and a tenant is able to move in, case management supports will be provided to assist with housing stability, increasing income through employment or training for advancement, and/or other goals identified by the tenant.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following contract be awarded and that the County Executive and County Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign the agreement on behalf of Dane County, and that the Controller is authorized to make payments:

48 49	<u>Vendor</u> Catholic Charities, Inc., Diocese of Madison		Contract Amount \$267,500
50 51 52 53 54	<b>BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED</b> that the following expenditure account be added in the 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 fiscal year:		
55	Revenue		
56	Account Number	Account Title	Amount
57 58	80000 81367	ARP Revenue	\$2,659,760
59	Expenditure		
60	Account Number	Account Title	Amount
61 62	80000 30024	ARP Rehousing Initiative	\$2,659,760