



# Memo

From: Sarah Lim, Community Development Specialist

Date: 9/25/2019

Re: Amending Tenant Resource Center's contract for Emergency Solutions Grant, Housing Assistance Program, Homeless Prevention Program (EHH) for additional \$40,000

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The State of Wisconsin EHH grant combines HUD Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), State of Wisconsin Housing Assistance Program (HAP) and Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) and supports various aspects of homeless services in Madison and Dane County, including emergency shelter, street outreach, homeless prevention, and rapid rehousing programs. The State Department of Administration Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources ("the State") annually distributes available funds among four Wisconsin Continua of Care (CoC): Dane, Milwaukee, Racine, and Balance of State CoCs.

The City of Madison Community Development Division serves as the Dane CoC's lead applicant and submits, on its behalf, an annual consolidated application to the State. The Dane CoC Board of Directors is responsible for making funding allocation decisions for inclusion in the consolidated application.

The Dane CoC was awarded a total of \$603,960 in EHH funds for the 2019-2020 grant cycle with a grant period of 7/1/19-9/30/20 and the Common Council authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute contracts with the State and the selected homeless services agencies.

One of the contracted homeless services agencies was Catholic Charities Madison, which was approved for \$40,000 in special allocation funds to start a new rapid resolution (otherwise known as diversion) project at the Beacon Day Resource Center. However, after further considering the contract requirements that come with HUD ESG funds, Catholic Charities Madison decided not to take on the project at this time.

The City sought alternative special allocation proposals in order to avoid returning the funds to the State, and the Dane CoC Board of Directors approved the reprogramming of those funds to Tenant Resource Center's Upstream Mediation Services instead on September 20, 2019.

Tenant Resource Center's Upstream Mediation Services will expand the existing mediation program by adding 0.75 FTE staff position and offering mediation services currently available only at the small claims court further upstream, away from a court-involved setting. The program aims at reduced court eviction case filing, therefore reducing the barriers for obtaining future housing, as well as avoiding eviction and homelessness.