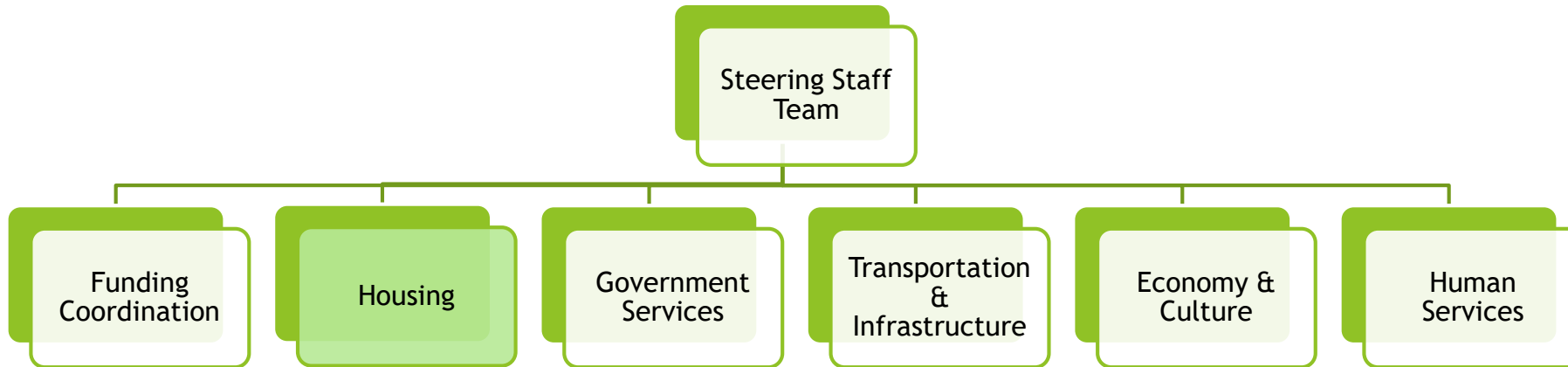


COVID-19 Response and Recovery- Draft Strategies

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July 16, 2020

COVID-19 Funding and Recovery Team



Homeless Services - Short Term Response

- ▶ **Protection of people at high risk of severe illness**
 - Identified and moved higher risk individuals (older adults and people with serious medical underlying conditions) out of shelters, streets and encampments into hotels
- ▶ **Social distancing at shelters**
 - Moved families with children out of the Salvation Army shelter into hotels, which allowed the single women's shelter to use the entire shelter building
 - Set up new overnight shelter space for single men at Warner Park
- ▶ **Established Medical Respite Center for people exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19**
 - Allowed shelters, outreach programs, hospitals and clinics, jail and corrections to refer people experiencing homelessness and needing isolation and quarantine
- ▶ **Issued Emergency Order #2 to support safe outdoor space practices for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness**
 - Established Temporary Permissible Encampments (TPEs)
 - Coordinated outreach efforts

Sheltered Individuals and Families

Number Served as of 7/8/20

Families Served in Hotels

- 59 families (200 people) at 2 hotels
- 35 families on waitlist

Higher Risk Individuals

- 170 currently at 3 hotels
- 76 people on referral list

COVID-19 Medical Respite Center

- 123 unduplicated individuals have been served (134 visits)
- Recent census has been in single digits

Congregate Shelter Settings

- 80 single men on average at Warner Park (overnight only)
- 40 single women at Salvation Army (24-hour shelter)

Sheltered Individuals and Families

Summary of Services Provided

Families Served in Hotels

- Salvation Army shelter staff and case managers
- Onsite security, 3 meals a day

Higher Risk Individuals

- Focus Counseling case managers onsite 24/7, AODA social worker, and safety worker
- Catholic Charities Housing Navigators
- Onsite security, 3 meals a day

COVID-19 Medical Respite Center

- Nursing staff on site 7am-7pm; managed by Public Health
- Focus Counseling supportive services staff providing tele-services
- Onsite security, 3 meals a day

Congregate Shelter Settings

- Coordinated Entry assessments
- Case management services

Unsheltered

- ▶ As of 7/1/20, approximately 110 people were identified as experiencing unsheltered homelessness and had contacts with outreach workers
 - 50 individuals in downtown
 - 60 individuals in encampments
 - There will be additional people in encampments and vehicle residence
- ▶ Center for Disease Control (CDC) has advised against disrupting encampments during the COVID-19 public health emergency in order to protect people in encampments and the community from further spread of the disease.

Temporary Permissible Encampments (TPEs)

- ▶ Designation of Temporary Permissible Encampment (TPE) may be obtained if the site is:
 - located at least 500 feet from residential property;
 - not in a flood plan or other low lying area susceptible to flooding, or otherwise deemed unsafe;
 - accessible via public property or right of way;
 - accessible for delivery and servicing of portable toilets, hand washing stations and trash containers;
 - usable area is sufficient to practice recommend social distancing;
 - presence will not prevent, disrupt or interfere with the intended public use of space;
 - will not prevent normal maintenance or upkeep of site/or its facilities;
 - not located in environmentally sensitive area.
- ▶ Temporary services provided at TPEs
 - Portable toilets and hand washing stations at authorized encampments where people lack access to restroom facilities
 - Trash containers and collection
 - Regular visits by outreach workers to facilitate referrals to housing or shelter, provisions of wellness checks, dissemination of COVID-19 educational materials and distribution of basic supplies and hygiene kits

Impacts- Budget, Staffing & Community

- ▶ Approximate monthly cost for hotel lodging, support staff, meals (including Warner Park) and security is \$1.5 million - financed primarily by Dane County (CARES Act).
- ▶ City has borne costs to set up Warner Park, manages intake at hotels, provides Metro service to hotels and men's shelter, and provides PPE equipment to shelters and outreach staff.
- ▶ Portable toilets and handwashing stations have been installed and regularly maintained to support people experiencing unsheltered homelessness downtown and TPEs.
- ▶ The Salvation Army is currently serving 2x its normal family caseload.
- ▶ The Beacon Homeless Day Resource Center has been serving existing guests and new guests who are experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ Warner Park Community Center will be offline until a new site gets identified for men's shelter.

Homeless Services- Intermediate Plans

- ▶ Prepare to meet ongoing needs for safe emergency shelter
 - Identify new site(s) to serve single men upon closure of the temporary operations at Warner Park Community Center
 - Continue to work with hotels to secure accommodations for families and those at higher risk
 - Extend contracts to ensure COVID-19 Medical Respite Center for people experiencing homelessness is available until the public health emergency no longer exists
- ▶ Expand services to secure permanent housing solutions
 - Target housing navigation and supportive services to individuals and families at higher risk of severe illness
 - Expand Rapid Rehousing programs
 - Cultivate relationships with landlords willing to partner with supportive housing programs

Homeless Services- Long Term Plans

- ▶ Develop permanent purpose-built shelter facilities
 - Partner with Dane County, and seek private sector support, for a replacement permanent men's shelter facility that meets the community's needs
 - Work with The Salvation Army to keep its shelter redevelopment plans on track
- ▶ Create more very low-income housing units
 - Continue to support new developments that include supportive housing set-asides
 - Create new low-cost housing options for singles such as single-room occupancy rental housing or shared housing to bridge the gap between emergency shelter and the traditional subsidized permanent housing market
- ▶ Expand social services and **Housing First Polices***
 - Strengthen and expand the capacity of non-profit networks to provide the volume and intensity of services needed to ensure the success of permanent housing solutions
 - Develop or strengthen access to resources that can support behavioral health services

New Funding Available: ESG-CV

- ▶ Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Supplemental Funding authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
- ▶ To be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- ▶ Approximately \$4.8 million available for Madison/Dane County
 - Dane County Continuum of Care (CoC) will receive \$1,887,265 allocated to the State of Wisconsin; additional funding may be allocated by the State
 - City of Madison will receive \$2,890,929
 - Most funds will be allocated through an RFP process facilitated by the City of Madison

ESG-CV Eligible Activities

- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Homelessness Prevention
- Rapid Re-housing
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Administration

ESG-CV Funding Priorities

► Priorities identified by HUD

- Equitable and effective use of resources to re-house people, using equity-based decision-making and data-driven policy setting
- Follow CDC recommendations: address public health risk by housing people in unsheltered locations and shelters with shared sleeping areas; ensure that people in non-congregate shelters do not return to unsheltered homelessness or shelters with shared sleeping areas

► Priorities identified by the Dane CoC Board of Directors

- Programs targeting people who are at higher risk for severe illness (older adults and people who have serious underlying medical conditions) if contracting COVID 19
- Programs serving populations highly impacted by COVID 19 but underserved
- Programs not funded by other funding sources
- Programs utilizing a peer support model

Rental Market- Short Term Response

▶ Collaborate Internally*

- City agencies explore all ways of collaborating to better investigate and help address tenant/landlord issues that arise (i.e. anti-retaliation process, injunction relief)

▶ Devise an intervention effort to reduce the threat of housing instability arising from the economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

- Gather and analyze data needed to understand the scope and scale of risk.
- Ensure availability of adequate resources to provide housing counseling services and to combat unwarranted or discriminatory eviction actions.
- Support organizations that can help reach and serve marginalized populations
- Target tenants that have seen an economic impact from COVID-19 including undocumented populations

▶ Communicate housing rights and responsibilities*

- Work with various community partners to ensure that tenants and landlords know their rights and responsibilities and where to go for support

Rental Market- Intermediate Plans

- ▶ Support property owners, particularly non-profit Housing Providers, that typically house low-moderate income residents
 - Proactivity engage landlords.
 - Consider financial aid to property owners for whom rent revenue reductions are impacting their abilities to cover supportive services.
 - Encourage refinancing, at lower interest rates, for properties with subordinate City liens.
- ▶ Strengthen ordinances and programs to prevent evictions*
 - Lobby for expanded protections (i.e. court hearing suspension, suspension of penalties and late fees)
 - Legal counsel for tenants
 - Rental Assistance

Rental Market- Long Term Plans

- ▶ Make housing affordable throughout the city by creating new affordable housing units for lower income households
 - Finalize Lank Banking Policy with a focus on affordable housing
 - Focus City spending on affordable housing with transit access and long-term affordability
 - Adjust zoning code to encourage new housing types (i.e. townhouses, backyard cottages, co-housing, etc)
 - Prioritize preservation of existing affordable housing

Homeownership- Short Term Response

- ▶ Monitor the threat of housing instability arising from the economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Gather and analyze data needed to understand the scope and scale of risk.
 - Delay the payment of property taxes, without penalty.
 - Educate older adults about Property Tax Financing for Eligible Seniors (65+)

Homeownership- Intermediate Plans

- ▶ Ensure people can stay in their homes
 - Expand loan programs for seniors and owners at risk of displacement to afford the cost of homeownership
 - Work with banks/Federal programs on forbearance programs
 - Support low-moderate income households with foreclosure prevention programs
 - Enhance programs to retrofit homes for accessibility and energy efficiency

Homeownership- Long Term Plans

- ▶ Ensure people have housing choice and opportunities
 - Fund a greater variety of housing types within neighborhoods (i.e. condos, co-housing, missing middle)
 - Increase homeownership opportunities for people of color*

New Funding Available: CDBG-CV

- ▶ Community Development Block Grant Supplemental Funding authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
- ▶ To be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)
- ▶ City of Madison to receive \$1,160,897
- ▶ Must meet CDBG National Objective and serve low-to-moderate income households. CARES Act provisions related to CDBG Allocation:
 - ▶ Suspends 15% cap on public service
 - ▶ 5-day public comment period
 - ▶ Suspends in-person public hearings

CDBG-CV Activities

- ▶ Affordable Housing
 - ▶ Housing Assistance- Could include Rent Assistance, Housing Counseling, etc
- ▶ Strong and Healthy Neighborhoods
 - ▶ Public Services- Could include Youth Programming, Homeless Services
- ▶ Economic Development & Employment Opportunities
 - ▶ Small Business (Micro-Enterprise) Development- Could include technical assistance and financial support to micro-enterprises
- ▶ Effective Planning and Program Administration
 - ▶ Administration