Homeless Service Specialist: Under-served populations

We are seeking city and county funding to create a position to address the gap in services for those experiencing homelessness under HUD defined category 3 (Homeless under other Federal Statutes, i.e. doubled up, self-paying in hotels). This position would coordinate and organize resources, as well as seek funding opportunities that are not specifically tied to HUD category 1 (Literally Homeless, i.e. Shelter, on the street). This position would maintain a list of eligible families/singles for program opportunities that do not require HUD category 1 definition.

The focal group for this position will be homeless families, youth, and singles that are doubled up or self-paying in hotels. This homeless population does not fall within HUD category 1 definition and cannot access the housing priority list. As a result, hundreds of people fail to receive the support needed to access supportive services or effective resources to secure housing with our current structure.

Data received from the Madison School District identified 80% of homeless students were not able to receive adequate support within the community because they do not fit the eligibility for category 1. Efforts are underway to collect further data at a city/county wide level to better understand the scope and barriers of this unserved population.

This position would build on current efforts by developing an array of services to support the homeless community, housing and service providers.

This position will:
- Examine current structures, as well as the policies and procedures adversely impacting homeless doubled up populations.
- Identify opportunities, as well as barriers and gaps that exist on a city and county wide level
- Look at capacity of current programs to ensure adequate resources and infrastructure, including exploration of new funding streams and expansion opportunities
- Compile and review data
- Gather ideas from other communities including potential funding sources for category 3 populations
- Build a system that provides, funding, resources and collaboration for doubled up and hotel populations which represent 80% of our school age homeless family units
- Establish a data collection system that will capture accurate count of category 3 population allowing service providers to develop a prioritization system for this population
- Coordinating with and within the scope of the HSC (Homeless Services Consortium)

Creation of this position will make visible a currently unserved homeless population in Madison and Dane County.