

Dane County Resolution 11

City County Homeless Issues Committee

Monday, May 17th, 2021

Casey Slaughter Becker - Dane County Department of Human Services

Resolution Summary

- ▶ Proposes to invest additional funding in model similar to rapid re-housing.
- ▶ Need is present because Dane County will not be able to continue its existing hotel partnerships past August for hotel shelter.
 - ▶ Late summer/fall events are returning to the area and the number of rooms currently available will not be available at that time.
- ▶ Social distancing in congregate shelter will continue to be a necessary measure to reduce exposure to and spread of COVID-19.
 - ▶ If all current hotel guests return to the congregate shelter system, programs such as the Salvation Army shelter for women, and The Beacon Day Resource Center will be over their social distance capacity and will not be able to serve the need in their current facilities.
- ▶ Increased funding will help hotel guests enter into housing, and enable them to continue stability and connection to services received in hotel shelter.

Resolution Summary

▶ Two Major Elements

- ▶ Authorizes spending on direct assistance and case management in 2021.
 - ▶ \$2,392,260
- ▶ Authorizes an extension of expanded housing navigation services set to expire on June 30th.
 - ▶ \$267,500
- ▶ Funding for the effort in future years proposed in the County Executive's Budget.

▶ Goal

- ▶ To assist as many households as possible currently sheltering in hotels with a move into housing before hotel shelter program ends in August.
- ▶ To make the resource available after hotel shelter ends to continue with exits from homelessness into housing.
- ▶ To provide supportive case management after housing placement to assist tenant with long term housing stability.

Resolution Summary

- ▶ Estimates for the program costs over two years are based on:
 - ▶ Providing two years of rental assistance per household.
 - ▶ 230 households without children, 1 bedroom apartment at HUD's Fair Market Rent (FMR) rate (\$1,039/month).
 - ▶ 67 households with minor children (families), 3 bedroom apartment at HUD's FMR rate (\$1,641/month).
 - ▶ Providing funding to hire additional case managers at a 1 to 20 case manager to client ratio.
 - ▶ Number of program slots based on the number of households staying in County-funded hotel shelter at the time of program estimate.
 - ▶ Other Program Cost Estimates Include:
 - ▶ Providing each household with up to a triple security deposit.
 - ▶ Providing each household with an allowance for move-in costs.
 - ▶ Providing each household with utility cost assistance for two years.
 - ▶ Funds could also be used to help clear arrears that are a barrier to housing search/entry, and pay application fees.

Current Eligibility

- ▶ Consistent with priority groups for rapid re-housing programs per the supplemental written standards adopted by the Homeless Services Consortium.
- ▶ **Households without children (single adults, couples):** Those who are currently in the vulnerable population hotel shelter program who were considered at high risk for severe illness if contracting COVID-19 informed by the CDC. If resources are available, people who meet prioritization for hotel shelter on the wait list may be served. The current eligibility for referral to the hotel shelter program is as follows:
 - ▶ Older adults (65+)
 - ▶ Adults with certain underlying health conditions or compromised health condition:
 - ▶ Cancer
 - ▶ Chronic kidney disease
 - ▶ COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
 - ▶ Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathis
 - ▶ Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
 - ▶ Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²)
 - ▶ Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²)
 - ▶ Pregnancy
 - ▶ Sickle cell disease
 - ▶ Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Current Eligibility, Con't

- ▶ **Households with children (families):** Households currently in hotel shelter supported by Dane County funding. Hotel shelter providers are primarily prioritizing families experiencing homelessness with infants and families that are unsheltered. If resources are available, families who meet prioritization for hotel shelter on the wait list may be served

Program Outcomes

- ▶ Modeled after rapid re-housing. RRH programs typically provide move-in costs, rent assistance, and up to two years of case management.
 - ▶ Program would be funded by local aid dollars in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and would have more flexibility than HUD dollars, the traditional source for rapid re-housing funds.
- ▶ Standards and goals adopted locally for rapid re-housing in Dane County:
 - ▶ To work with guests to obtain permanent housing and maintain housing stability after exiting the program.
 - ▶ 85% of program participants should exit to permanent housing within two years. In FY 2020 in Dane County:
 - ▶ 72% of households without children (couples, singles) exited to permanent housing.
 - ▶ 83% of households with children (families) exited to permanent housing.
 - ▶ No more than 5% of households will return to homelessness within the first year of program exit. In FY 2020 in Dane County:
 - ▶ 7% of households without children (couples, singles) returned to homelessness within 1 year of program exit.
 - ▶ 5% of households with children (families) returned to homelessness within 1 year of program exit.

Other Considerations/Updates

- ▶ Program partners will be required to use HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), the shared database homeless and housing service providers use to track performance measures and program data.
- ▶ Program partners will also be required to collaborate with other housing programs and the Homeless Services Consortium (HSC) coordinated entry system to case conference, share best practices, and prevent program duplication.
- ▶ Hotel shelter case managers connecting with guests in vulnerable population (VP) hotels to solidify housing preferences and goals, work to complete documentation for chronic homelessness, and continue to connect guests with higher health care needs to community resources.
- ▶ Alignment with other programs and resources.