



Dakota County

Community Services Committee of the Whole Agenda

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

1:00 PM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

If you wish to speak to an agenda item or an item not on the agenda, please notify the Clerk to the Board via email at CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us
Commissioners may participate in the meeting by interactive technology.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Note: Any action taken by this Committee of the Whole constitutes a recommendation to the County Board.

2. Audience

Anyone in the audience wishing to address the Committee on an item not on the Agenda or an item on the Consent Agenda may send comments to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us and instructions will be given to participate during the meeting. Verbal comments are limited to five minutes.

3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on February 10, 2026

5. Regular Agenda

5.1 *Social Services-Housing & Community Resources* - Update On Community Needs For Rental Assistance In Dakota County

5.2 *Social Services-Children and Family Services* - Update On State Of Minnesota Minimum Juvenile Delinquency Age Change

5.3 *Community Corrections* - Update On Juvenile Services Center Safety Based Separation

6. Assistant County Managers' Report

7. Future Agenda Items

8. Adjournment

8.1 Adjournment

For more information please call 651-554-5742.

**Committee of the Whole agendas are available online at
<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Pages/default.aspx>
Public Comment can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us**



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5409

Agenda #: 3.1

Meeting Date: 3/10/2026

Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5410

Agenda #: 4.1

Meeting Date: 3/10/2026

Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on February 10, 2026



Dakota County

Community Services Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

1:00 PM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Commissioner Holberg and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Lucie O'Neill, Assistant County Attorney; Marti Fischbach, Assistant County Manager, Community Services; Gil Acevedo, Assistant County Manager, Community Services; and Colleen Collette, Administrative Coordinator.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Chair, Commissioner Mike Slavik.

2. Audience

Chair, Commissioner Mike Slavik, asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Community Services Committee on an item not on the agenda or an item on the consent agenda. No one came forward and no comments were submitted to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us.

3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Laurie Halverson

Ayes: 7

4. Consent Agenda

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Joe Atkins

On a motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Atkins, the consent agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on January 13, 2026

5. Regular Agenda

5.1 Update On Multicultural Juvenile Drug Treatment Court

From Community Corrections, Sarah Reetz, Deputy Director, and Roy Adams, Supervisor, presented on this item and stood for questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. The Committee requested progress updates in future Assistant County Managers' Report.

Information only; no action requested.

5.2 Housing Services Continuum Update

Marti Fischbach, Assistant County Manager, Community Services, and Madeline Kastler, Social Services Deputy Director, presented on this item and stood for questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only; no staff direction was given.

Information only; no action requested.

6. Assistant County Managers' Report

Gil Acevedo, Assistant County Manager, Community Services, referred the Committee to the written report that was provided to them. He informed the Committee that the Housing Data is new and will be provided monthly. He also mentioned that The Open Door Pop-up Food Pantry is at the Northern Service Center today and noted that in January they distributed over 17,000 pounds of food. Last, Assistant County Manager Acevedo stated that the \$600 million dollars in federal funding cuts that was just announced will affect Public Health; staff is awaiting further information from the Department of Health.

7. Future Agenda Items

Chair, Commissioner Mike Slavik, asked the Committee if anyone had a topic they would like to hear more about at an upcoming Community Services Committee of the Whole meeting. No topics were brought forth.

8. Adjournment

8.1 Adjournment

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Joe Atkins

On a motion by Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Joe Atkins, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Collette, Administrative Coordinator
Community Services Division



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5434

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 3/10/2026

DEPARTMENT: Social Services-Housing & Community Resources

FILE TYPE: Regular Information

TITLE

Update On Community Needs For Rental Assistance In Dakota County

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Provide an update on community needs for rental assistance in Dakota County.

SUMMARY

Dakota County is home to 44,572 renter households (25% of total households in the county). Of these households, over half are cost burdened or severely cost burdened. Renter households who are cost burdened may not be able to withstand an emergency that disrupts income, such as illness, job loss, loss of childcare, etc.

To ensure that people who face a rental emergency do not lose their housing, Dakota County has several emergency rental assistance programs: Emergency Assistance (EA), Emergency General Assistance (EGA), Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) and Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA).

Since the beginning of Operation Metro Surge, there is some evidence of higher levels of need for rental assistance due to people sheltering in place or being detained.

This presentation will provide an overview of the Dakota County emergency rental assistance system, need data in the first two months of 2026, and ways that Dakota County staff are monitoring need and resources to serve Dakota County residents.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- None
- Current budget
- Other
- Amendment Requested
- New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Presentation Slides

BOARD GOALS

- Thriving People A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources
- A Successful Place for Business and Jobs Excellence in Public Service

CONTACTS

Department Head: Emily Schug

Author: Madeline Kastler

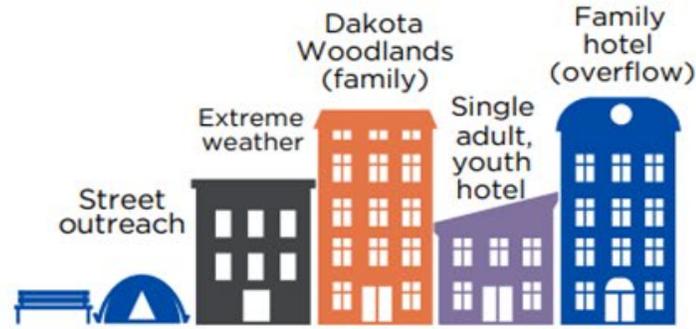
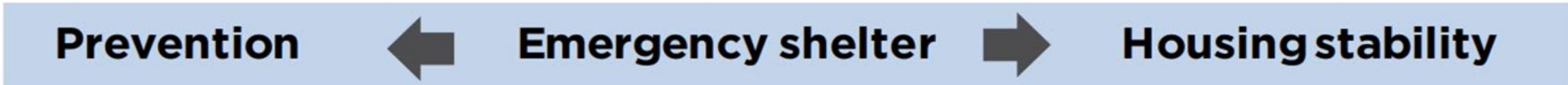


Update on Community Need for Rental Assistance in Dakota County

March 10, 2026

Marti Fischbach, Assistant County Manager, Community Services

Dakota County Housing Plan



- **Emergency Rental Assistance**
- **Prevention Services**
- Housing Clinic at Eviction Court
- On-site Apartment Services

- Shelter beds and operation
- Shelter diversion
- Outreach to homeless populations

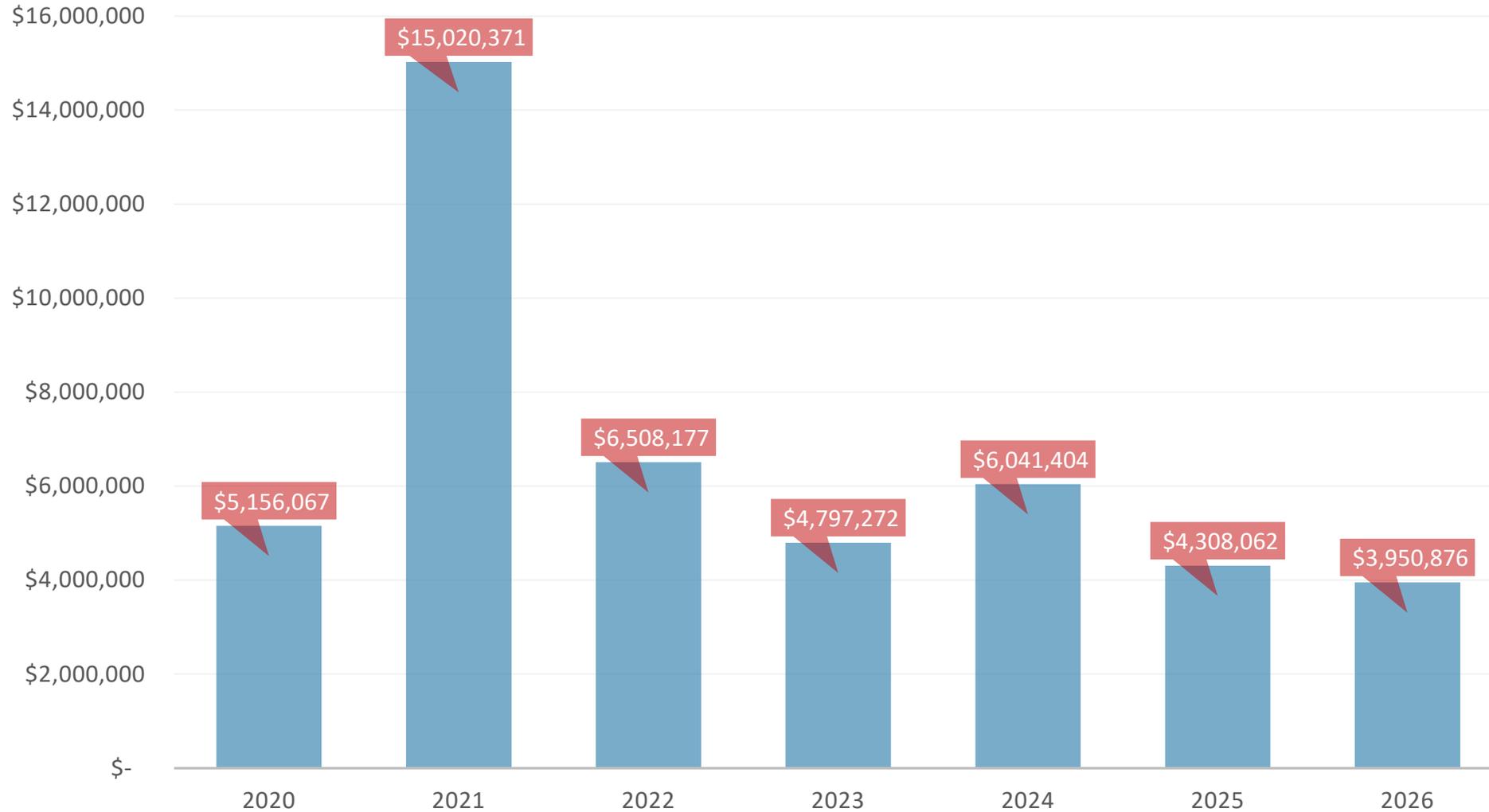
- Rental assistance
- Permanent Supportive Housing Services
- New affordable housing
- Preserved affordable housing
- Home improvement loans
- Home ownership

Funding Overview



Program	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget (projected)	Dept.	Funding	Population Served
Emergency Assistance (EA)	\$1,360,000 Calendar year	\$1,396,255	\$1,396,255	E&EA	Federal & State Consolidated Funds	Families with minor children
Emergency General Assistance (EGA)	\$262,459 State Fiscal Calendar 2024	\$261,981 SFY2025	\$282,121 SFY2026	E&EA	State	Single individuals or couples without children
Emergency Cash Assistance (ECA)	\$128,617	\$124,387	\$0	E&EA	Levy	Singles and families
Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)	\$1,283,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,400,000	SS	State	Singles and families
Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)	\$3,007,328	\$1,425,439	\$872,500	SS	State	Singles, families, young adults

Emergency Assistance Programs 2020 - 2026

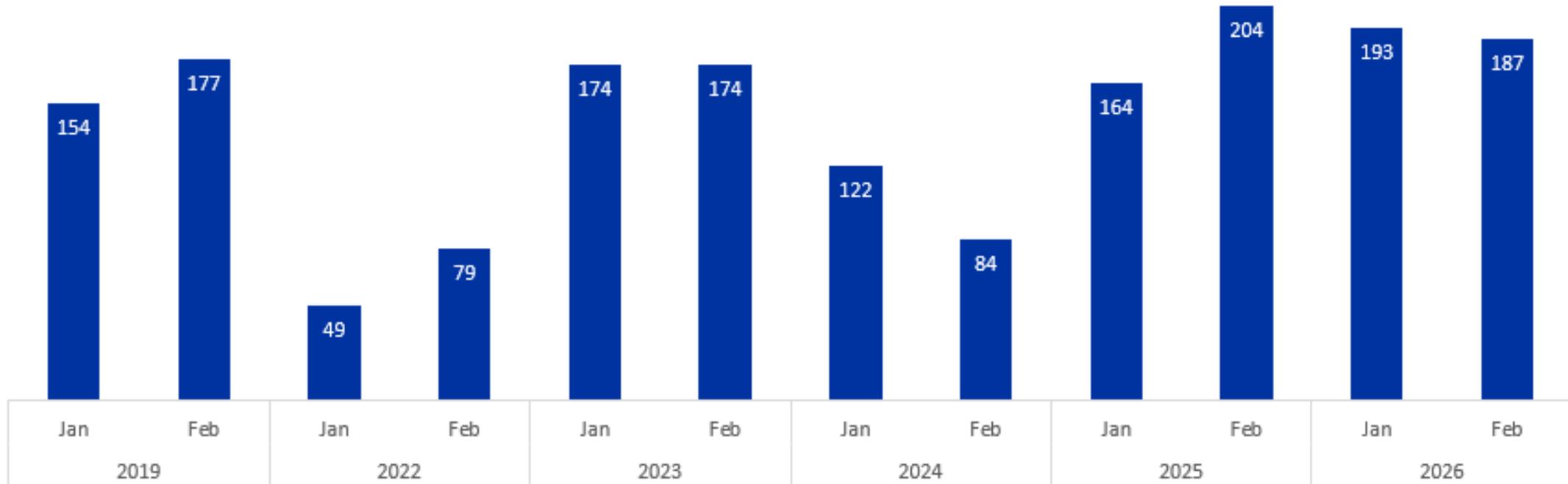


*Does not include RentHelpMN funding available to Dakota County residents 2021-2024

Dakota County Eviction Hearing Dates 2015-2026*



Eviction Hearings



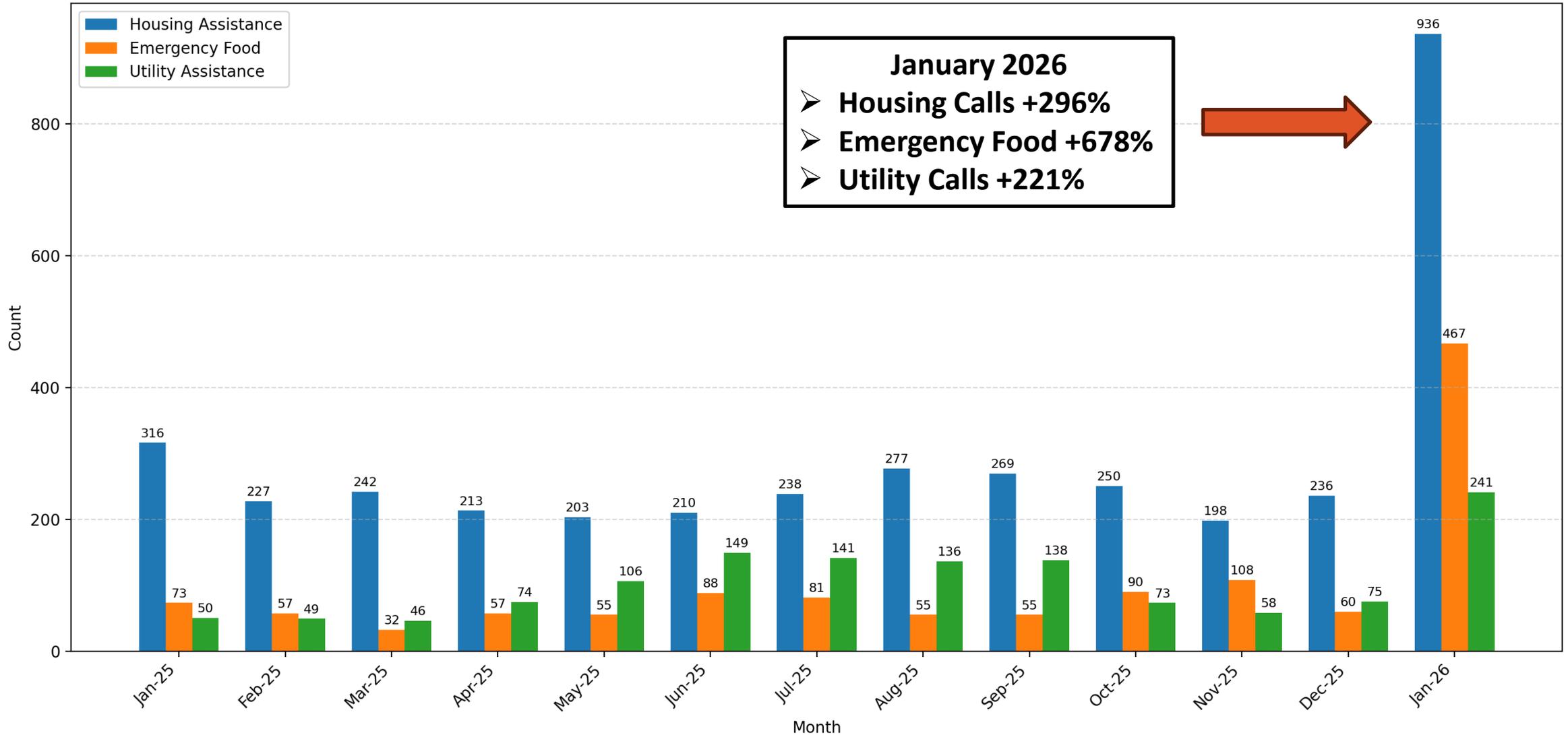
Eviction Hearings Scheduled
January and February 2025 = 368
January and February 2026 = 380

*Evictions filings and eviction hearings will be a lagging indicator of impact, as filings for February unpaid rent would not begin showing until late February at the earliest

211 Call Data – Dakota County



211 Calls in Dakota County



Emergency Assistance/ Emergency General Assistance



2025

• January:	64 households	\$153,145
• <u>February:</u>	<u>59 households</u>	<u>\$168,320</u>
• TOTAL:	123 households	\$321,465

2026

• January:	53 households	\$136,672
• <u>February:</u>	<u>65 households</u>	<u>\$172,787</u>
• TOTAL:	118 households	\$309,459

Dakota County Local Affordable Housing Aid Emergency Rental Assistance



2025

• January:	24 households	\$81,513
• <u>February:</u>	<u>20 households</u>	<u>\$60,481</u>
• TOTAL:	44 households	\$141,994

2026

• January:	32 households	\$97,560
• <u>February:</u>	<u>39 households</u>	<u>\$91,851</u>
• TOTAL:	71 households	\$189,411

January and February 2026

- Referrals to Prevention +57%
- Cases paid +61%
- Dollars spent +33%



Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) Statewide Rent Need Data

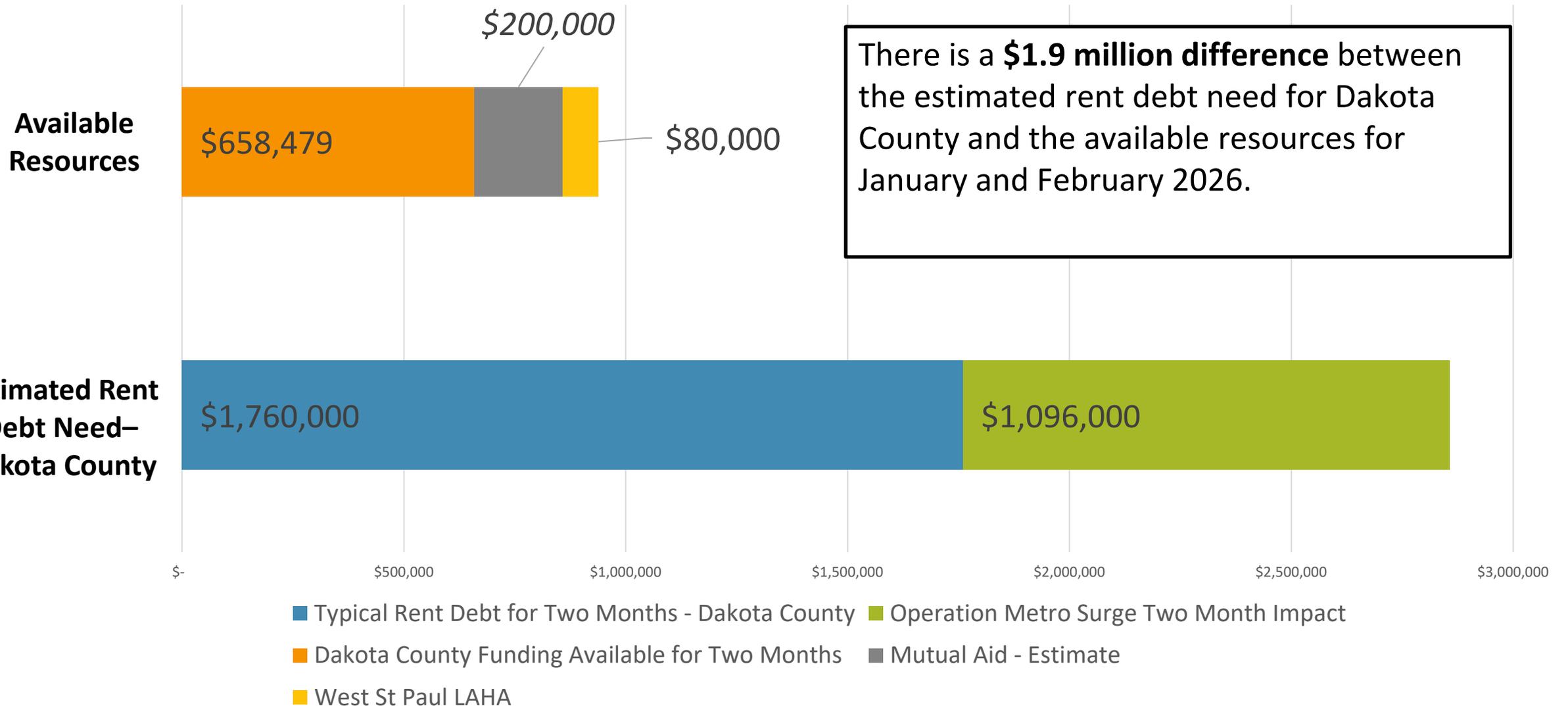


- *Average* two month rent debt in MN in 2025:
 - \$44.6M
- *Additional* rent debt for January and February 2026 due to Operation Metro Surge:
 - \$27.4M-\$51.3M
- *TOTAL* estimated rent debt for January and February 2026:
 - \$72M-\$95.9M

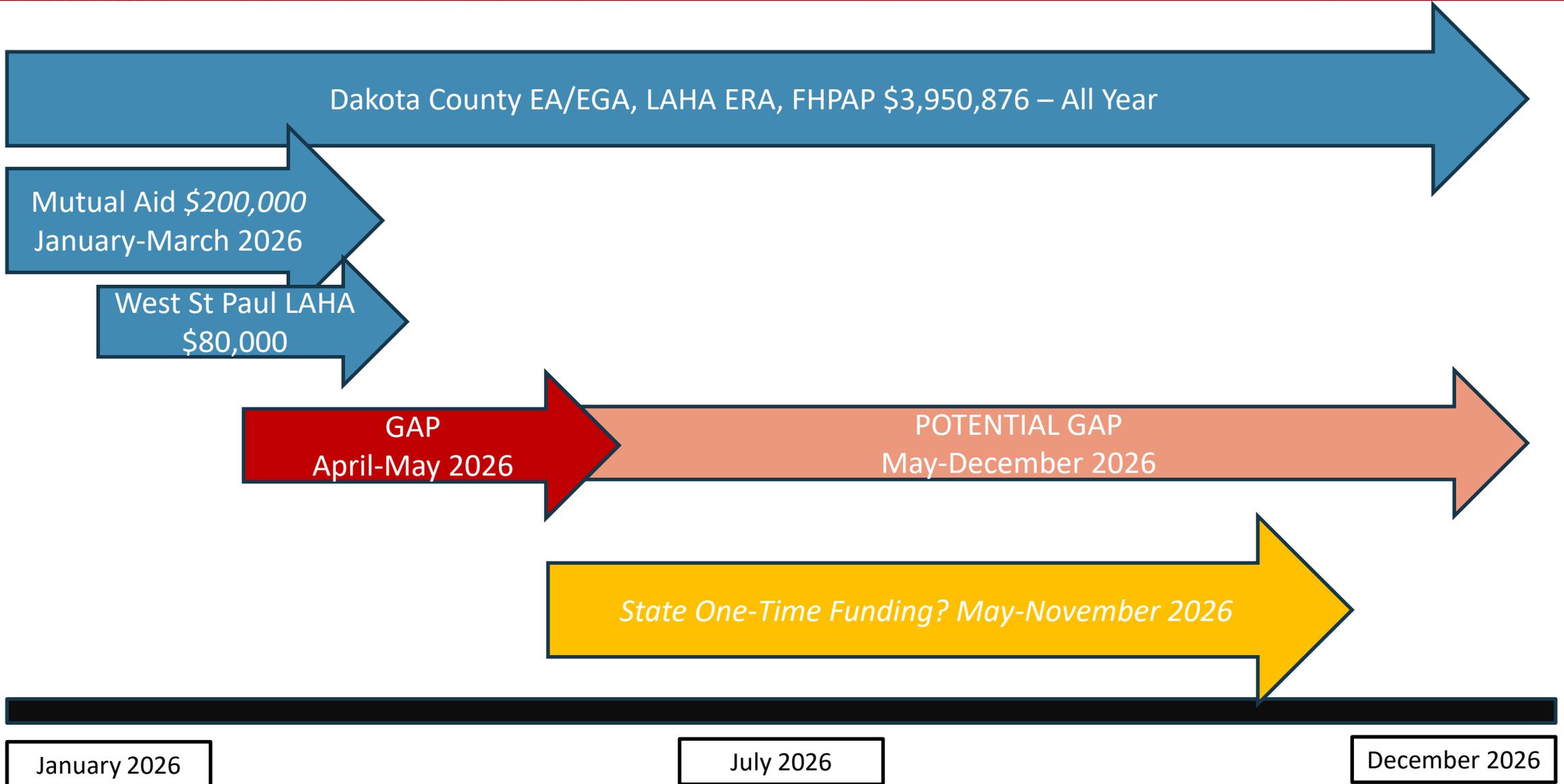
Assume Dakota County rent debt is 4% of statewide debt, using State Affordable Housing Aid distribution formula.

- Dakota County residents sheltering in place
- Heads of households detained or deported
- Business operations/employment disrupted
- Tenants are unable to pay rent in full
- Property owners are not receiving rent payments

Resources Available vs Need for January and February 2026

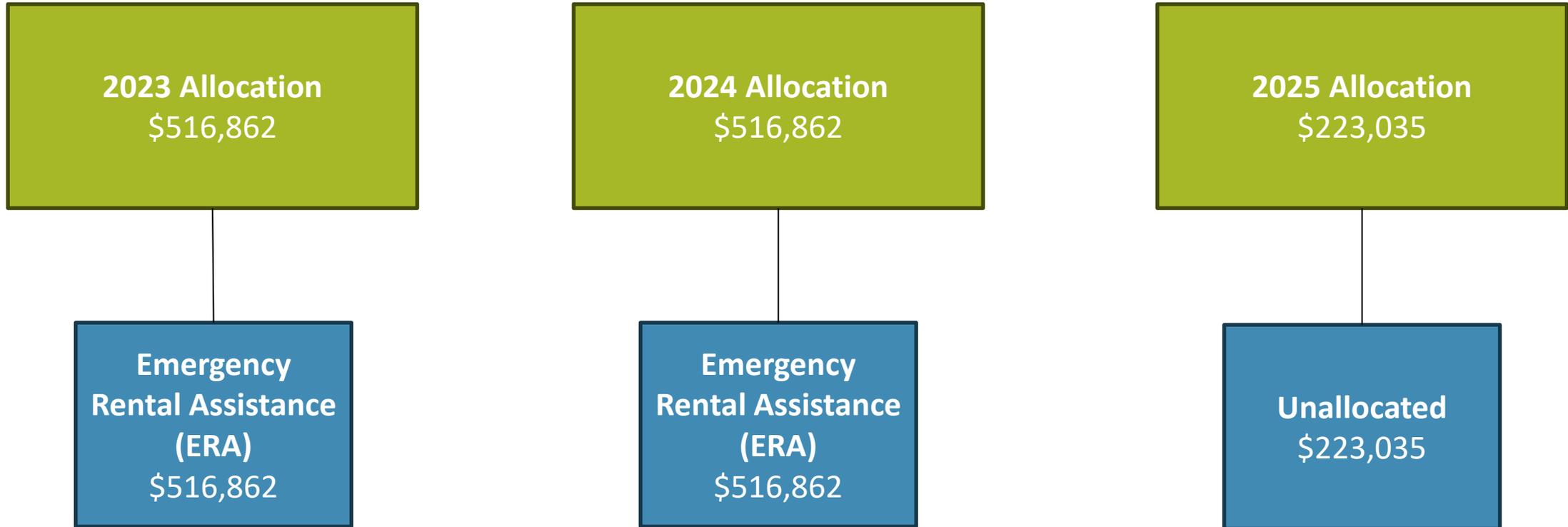


Available Resources



- Continue to encourage residents to call the Housing Resource Line for rental assistance
- Continue to review requests and process rent payments for eligible Dakota County residents
- Monitor need through county, partner data and community indicator data
- Continue to convene system partners who are administering emergency rental assistance or are seeing community need (foundations, faith communities, non-profits, schools, cities, property managers, CDA)
- Monitor county budgets for rental assistance and update board, as needed
- Monitor state legislative actions and return to board, as needed

State Affordable Housing Aid (SAHA)



Thank you



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4707

Agenda #: 5.2

Meeting Date: 3/10/2026

DEPARTMENT: Social Services-Children & Family Services

FILE TYPE: Regular Information

TITLE

Update On State Of Minnesota Minimum Juvenile Delinquency Age Change

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Receive an update on the State of Minnesota's minimum juvenile delinquency age change.

SUMMARY

Minnesota is raising the minimum age of juvenile delinquency from 10 years old to 13 years old. The proposed legislation is aimed at handling preteen delinquency offenses through social services rather than the justice system. With this change, children under the age of 13 would be considered a child in need of protection or services (CHIPS).

Current Minnesota law defines a "delinquent child" as a child who has violated any state or local law (Minn. Stat §260B.007, subd. 6). Children under the age of 10 are excluded from this definition of "delinquent child" as they fall within the definition of a child in need of protection or services (Minn. Stat. §260C.007, subd. 6(13)).

The 2024 Legislative Session brought two changes to the Minnesota Juvenile Court Act.

The first change added the following language to the delinquency provisions of the Juvenile Court Act:

- "Effective August 1, 2026, and applied to acts committed on or after that date, the term delinquent child does not include a child alleged to have committed a delinquent act before becoming 13 years old." Minn. Stat §260B.007, subd. 6(d).
- "Effective August 1, 2026, and applied to acts committed on or after that date, notwithstanding any contrary provision in paragraphs (a) to (d), a juvenile petty offender does not include a child who is alleged to have committed a juvenile petty offense before reaching the age of 13 years." Minn. Stat. §260B.007, subd. 16(e).

The second change added a clause within the juvenile protection provisions of the Juvenile Court Act to define a child in need of protection or services as one who: "Effective August 1, 2026, has committed a delinquent act or a juvenile petty offense before becoming 13 years old." Minn. Stat §260C.007, subd.6(17).

As a result of these two changes to the Juvenile Court Act effective August 1, 2026, any child under 13 years old who is alleged to have committed a delinquent act will be referred to the child protection system.

The intention for the change in age of delinquency aligns with recommendations to reduce system involvement for young children and follows concerns about increased offenses among children aged 10-13. The goal of this change is to provide services to the youth and their families instead of prosecuting children under 13 years old. The change would shift youth and their families from the criminal justice system to the child welfare system.

There are implications that may accompany the change in shifting youth from the criminal justice system to the child welfare system. Some of the current challenges facing the child welfare system include limited mental health and chemical health treatment programs for youth; minimal in-home or outpatient services and supports; insufficient technology and modernizations; as well as age restrictions for treatment settings.

OUTCOMES

For calendar year 2023, the County Attorney's Office received 57 total referrals for delinquent youth between the ages of 10-12. Fourteen youth were offered a pre-charge diversion program with nine successfully completing the program. There were 26 delinquency petitions filed.

For calendar year 2024, 48 referrals were received by the County Attorney's Office with 13 of the youth offered a pre-charge diversion. Nine youth successfully completed the program. There were 23 delinquency petitions filed.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- None Current budget Other
 Amendment Requested New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Presentation Slides

BOARD GOALS

- Thriving People A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources
 A Successful Place for Business and Jobs Excellence in Public Service

CONTACTS

Department Head: Nikki Conway
Author: Lawrence Dickens



Age of Delinquency March 2026

Lawrence Dickens,
Children and Family Services Deputy Director

Current

Age of Delinquency 10 years old



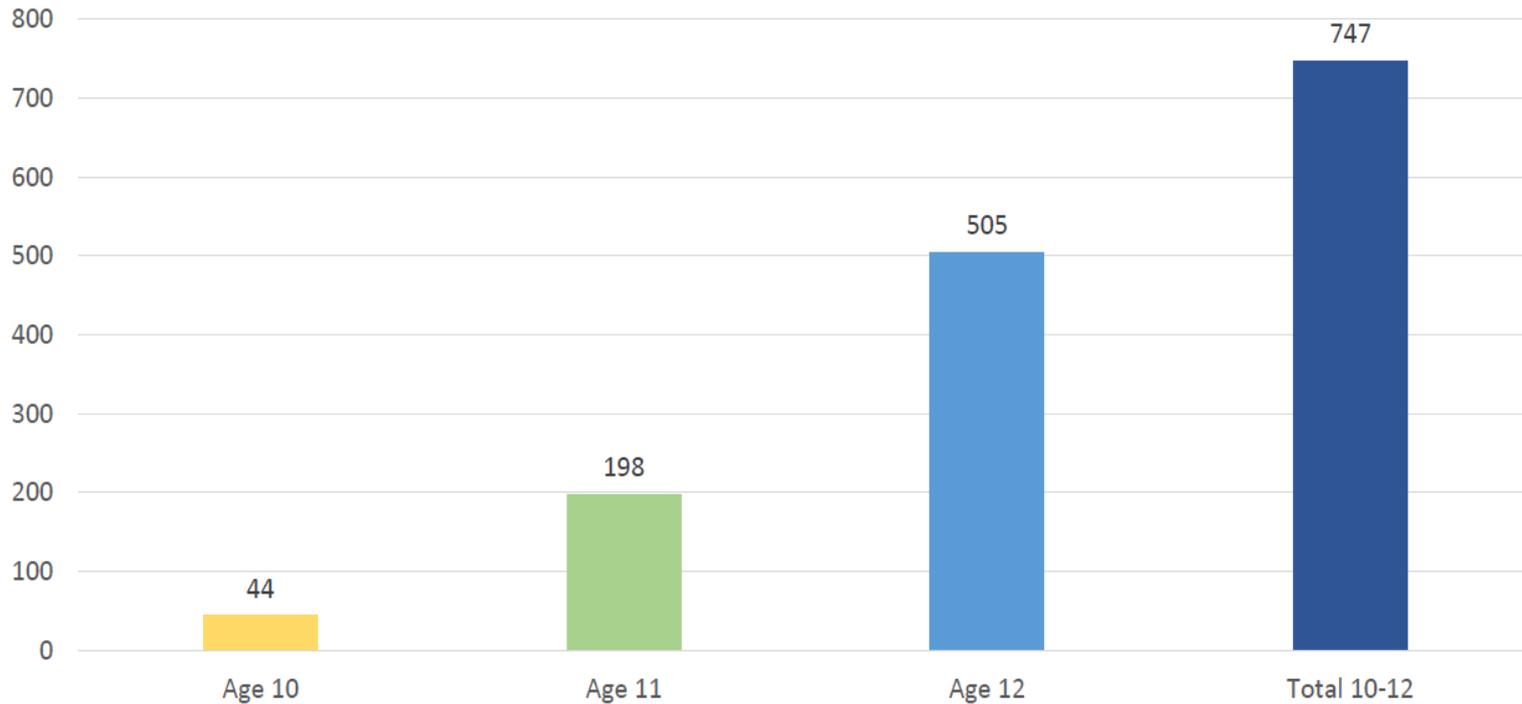
Effective August 1, 2026

Age of Delinquency 13 years old

Reduce involvement of young children ages 10-12 in the juvenile justice system:

- Youth ages 10-12 would receive intervention through the child welfare system
- Youth would no longer face prosecution by the justice system

Arrests of Youth Aged 10-12, CY 2023

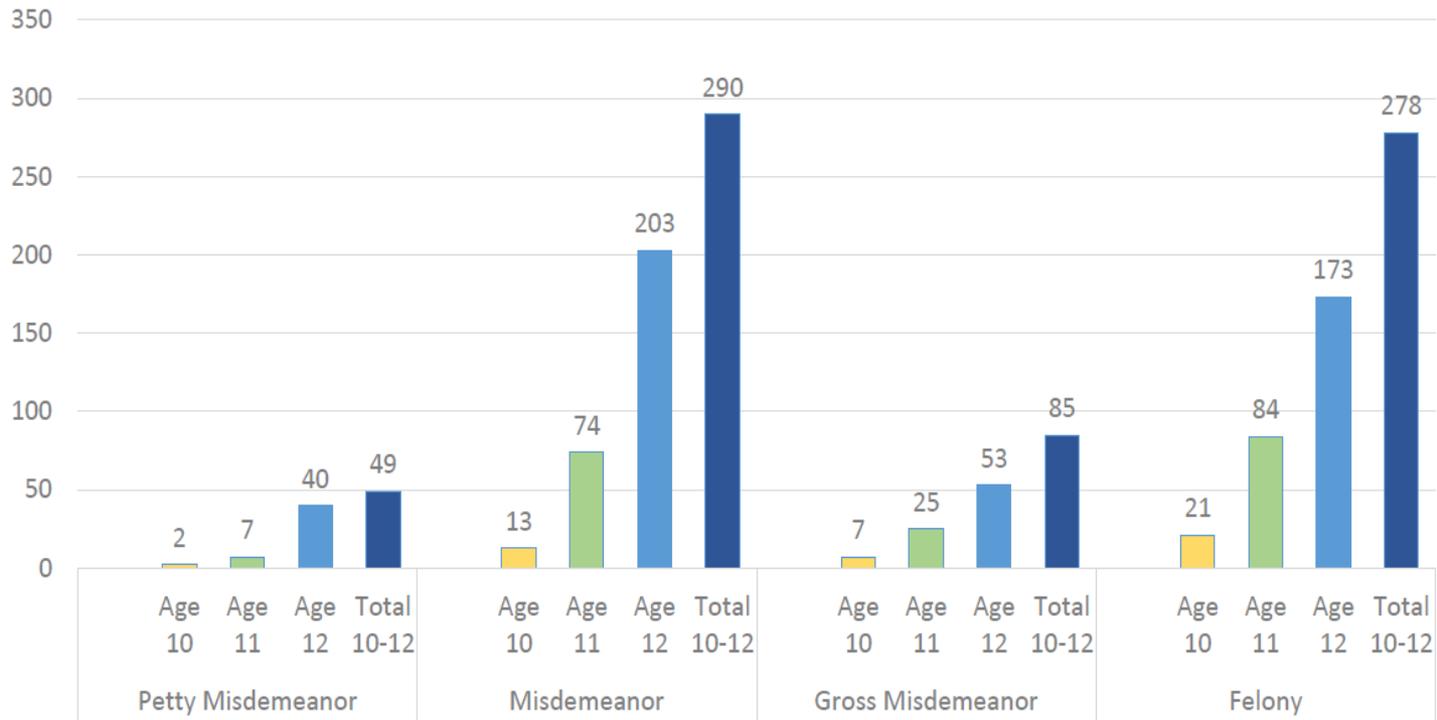


Source: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), MN Department of Public Safety

State Data 2023 (continued)

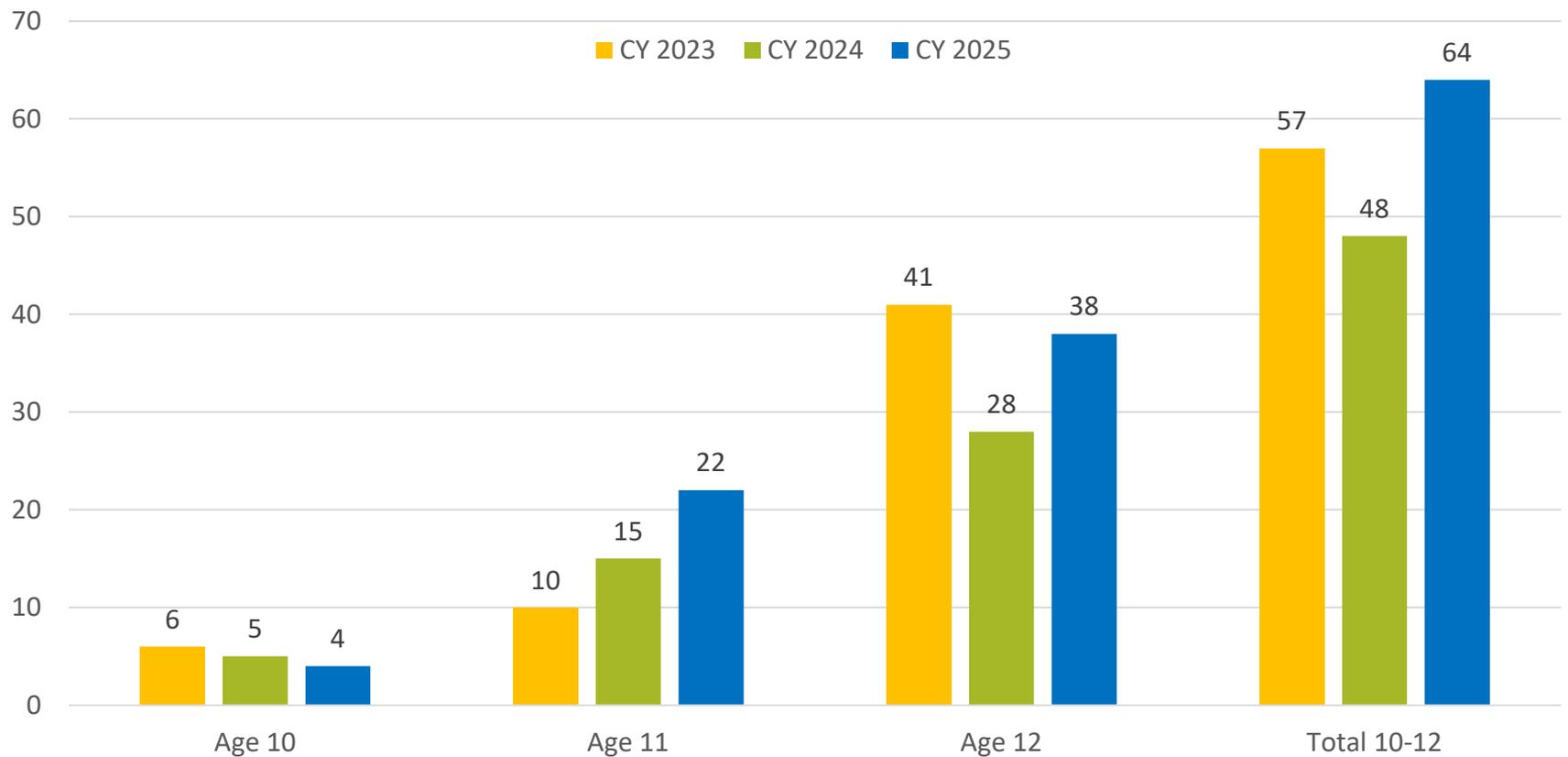


Arrests of Youth Aged 10-12, CY 2023 (highest level of offense)



Source: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), MN Department of Public Safety

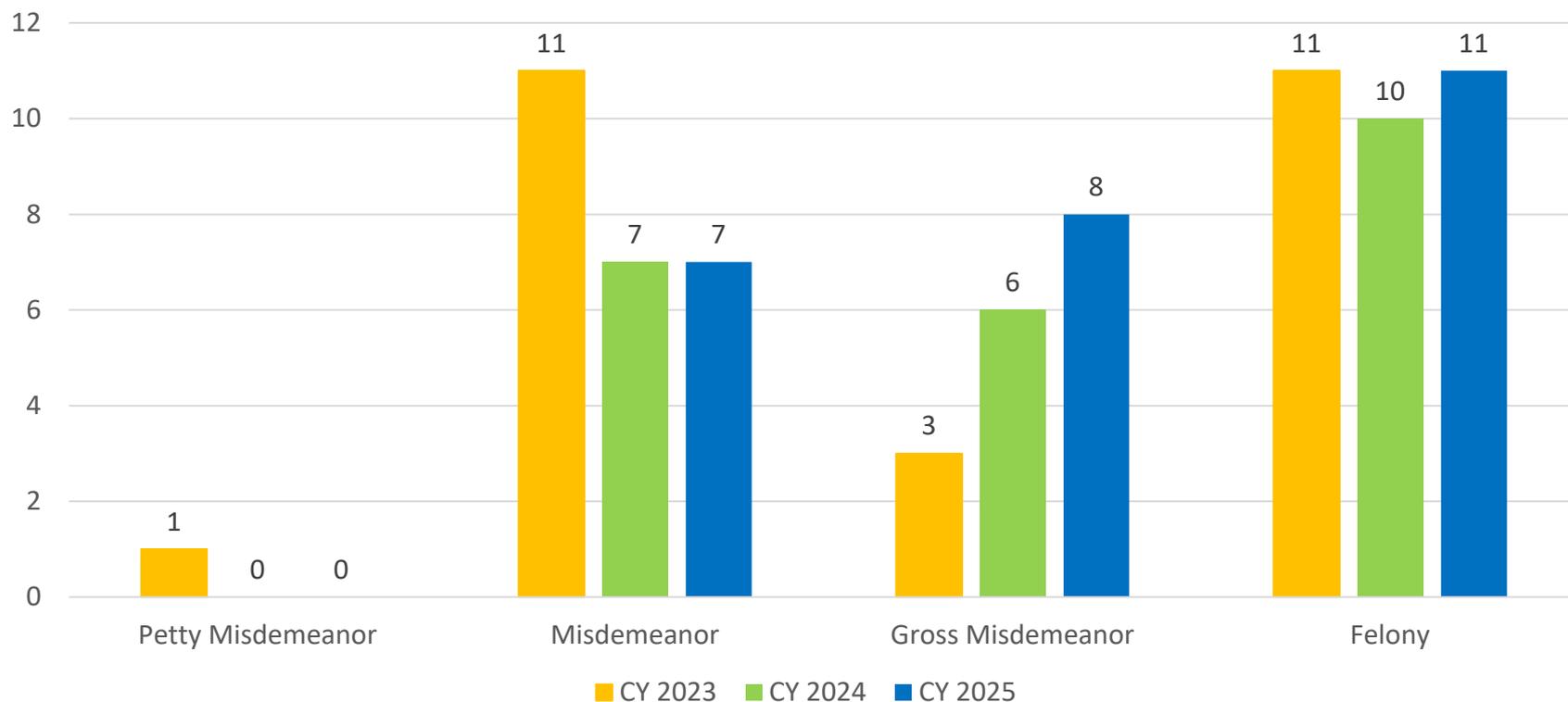
Delinquency Charges of Youth Aged 10-12, CY 2023 - 2025

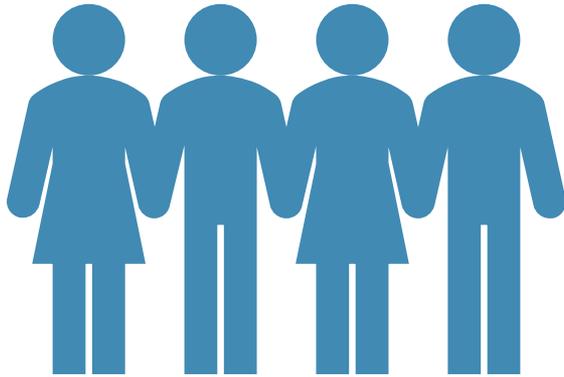


Dakota County Data (continued)



Delinquency Petitions Filed on Youth Aged 10-12, CY 2023 - 2025
(highest level of offense)





- Staff Capacity and Training
- Legal Consultation
- Community Based Resources
- Placement Capacity and Fit

Partnership



A photograph showing a hand on the left side, with the index finger pointing towards a long, narrow, dark, textured strip that has been cut out of a light brown, textured surface. The strip is oriented horizontally and has a rough, irregular edge. The background surface has a fine, woven texture.

Currently effective
August 1, 2026

Delay start date to
August 1, 2027

Questions?



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5285

Agenda #: 5.3

Meeting Date: 3/10/2026

DEPARTMENT: Community Corrections

FILE TYPE: Regular Information

TITLE

Update On Juvenile Services Center Safety Based Separation

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Receive an update on Safety Based Separation (SBS) in the Juvenile Services Center.

SUMMARY

Effective January 1, 2024, all Minnesota juvenile detention facilities were required to move from isolation as a form of discipline (Disciplinary Room Time, DRT) to the use of a SBS model. Dakota County Juvenile Services Center (JSC) administration were leaders in the development of using SBS only when a youth's safety and the safety of staff or others is threatened.

In Minnesota, the SBS model is a critical component of the state's mental health and safety regulations. Staff is seeing more youth with significant mental health needs in the JSC and other juvenile detention facilities and staff is tasked with implementing safe and effective interventions while minimizing use of room time. SBS is designed to ensure the safety of residents, other residents, and/or facility staff by separating individuals from peers in a locked or unlocked room. The use of SBS is initiated when staff cannot address a resident's behavior with less-restrictive interventions.

There are state licensing requirements regarding review of SBS, notifications for using SBS, necessary approvals for use of SBS, and reporting quarterly and yearly use of SBS to the MN Department of Corrections. The SBS is intended to prevent potential harm and ensure the safety of all individuals in the facility. There are three different types of SBS: 1) Safety Stabilization Period (SSP), 2) Administrative Separation, and 3) Medical Separation. SSP is the most used form of SBS.

Staff will update the County Board on the progress under the new laws, including the development of Safety Based Stabilization Officers in the JSC.

OUTCOMES

How Much: The JSC is averaging three and a half hours per incident of SSP, compared to the 2023 average for DRT of 13 hours per incident and the 2020 average of 23 hours per incident.

How Many: The average daily population of the JSC is 21 and serves primarily Dakota County youth and some out of county youth.

Who Is Better Off: All youth served at the JSC now fall under the new SBS rules. All youth can only be locked in a room when they are determined to be unsafe.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- None Current budget Other
 Amendment Requested New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

Information only, no action requested.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Presentation Slides

BOARD GOALS

- Thriving People A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources
 A Successful Place for Business and Jobs Excellence in Public Service

CONTACTS

Department Head: Suwana Kirkland

Author: Danielle McNamara



Juvenile Services Center Safety Based Separation

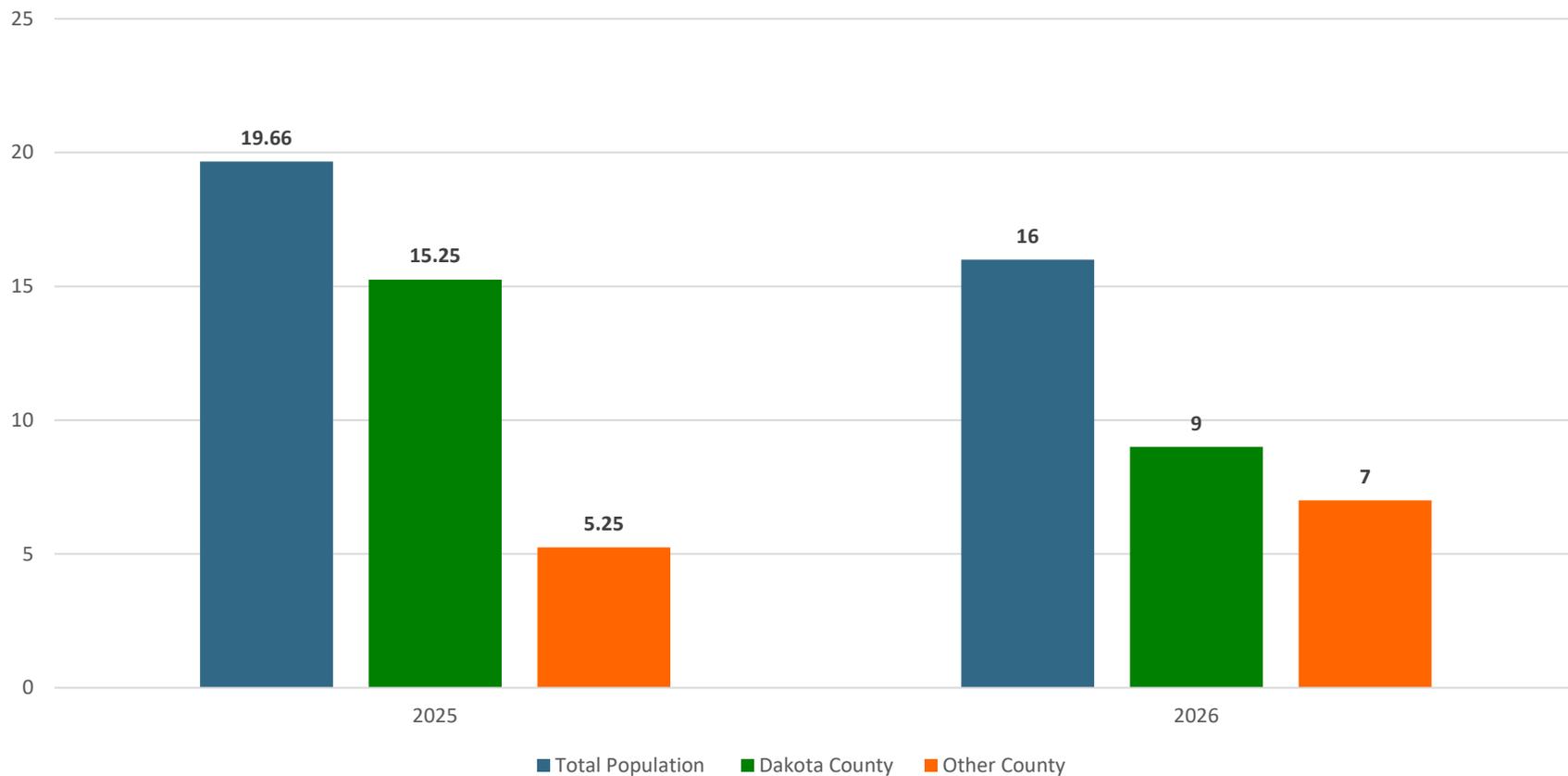
March 10, 2026

Matt Bauer, Deputy Director, Community Corrections
Jennifer Gustafson, JSC Clinical Supervisor, Community Corrections

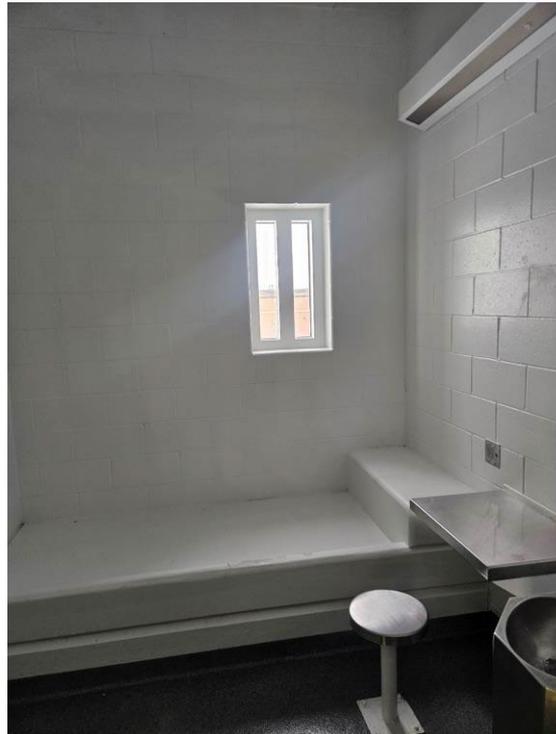
Juvenile Service Center (JSC) Population



JSC Average Daily Population



- Room Time is defined as securing a resident in their room.
- Room Time should only be used in times when a resident is not safe to be outside their room.
- Room Time has been found to have negative impacts on a resident's mental health and development.
- Recent years, there has been significant reform around the use of room time in Minnesota



Transition From The Old Model



Prior MN Department of
Corrections licensing
rules



DRT resulted from rule
violations



Legislative testimony



MNJDA and Georgetown
University Capstone
Project Outcomes

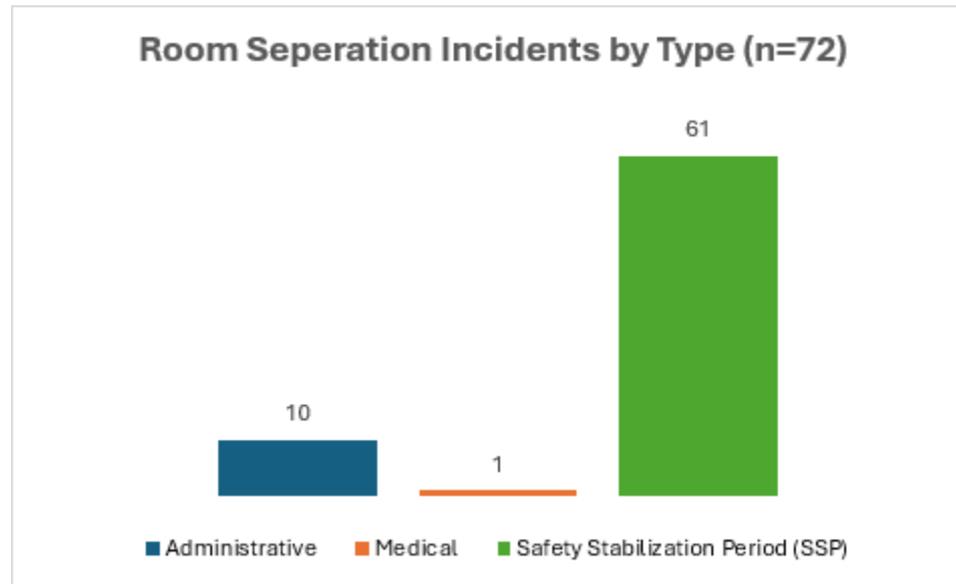
Safety Based Separation

- New rules became law effective January 1, 2025, emphasize only using room time for safety only and removing youth as soon as they are determined safe
- Includes increased notification, documentation, and approvals for use.
- Quarterly reports to the MN DOC



Three Types of Separation

- 1) Safety Stabilization Period (SSP)
- 2) Administrative Separation
- 3) Medical Separation



Culture Changes



INCENTIVE BASED
PROGRAMMING



HOW TO ADDRESS
AND UNDERSTAND
BEHAVIORS

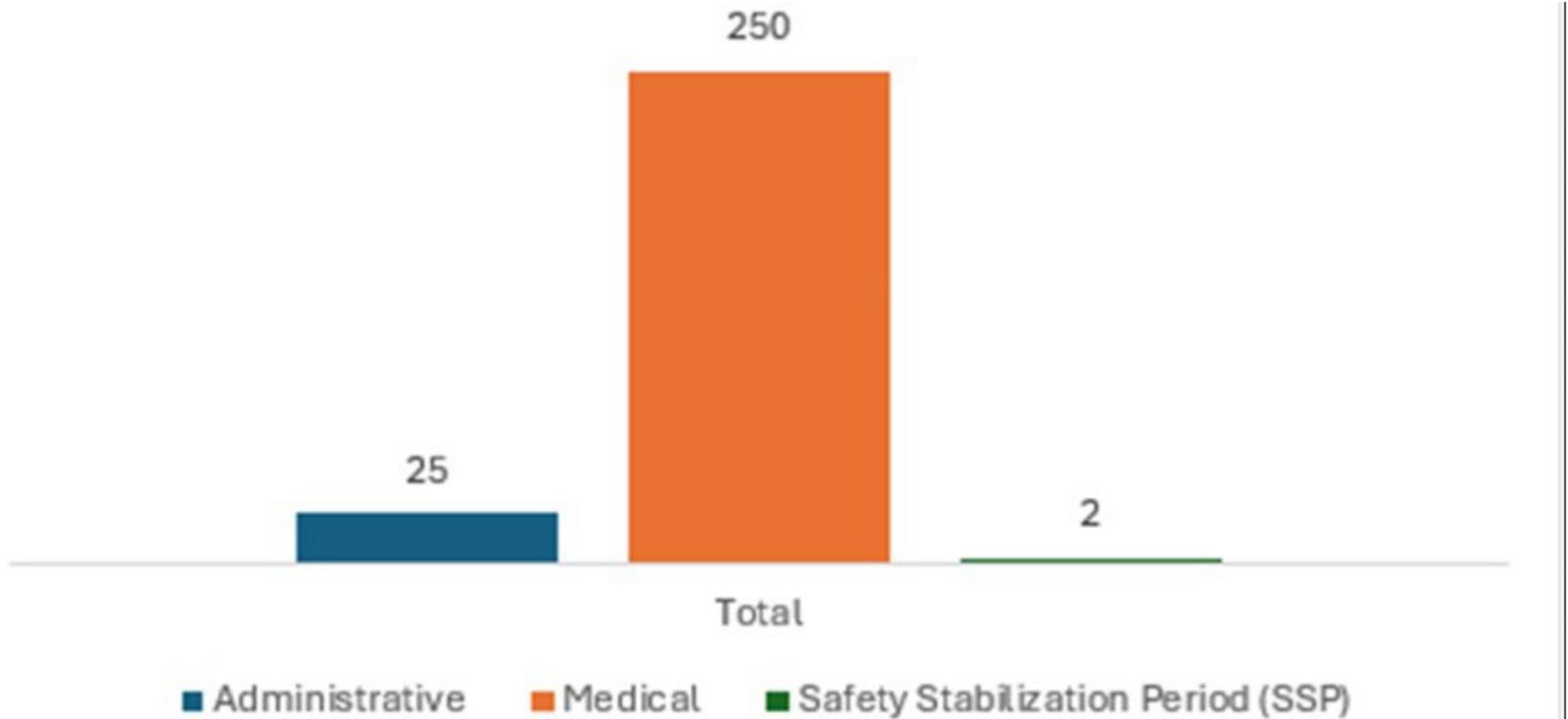


INCREASED STAFFING
AND MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES



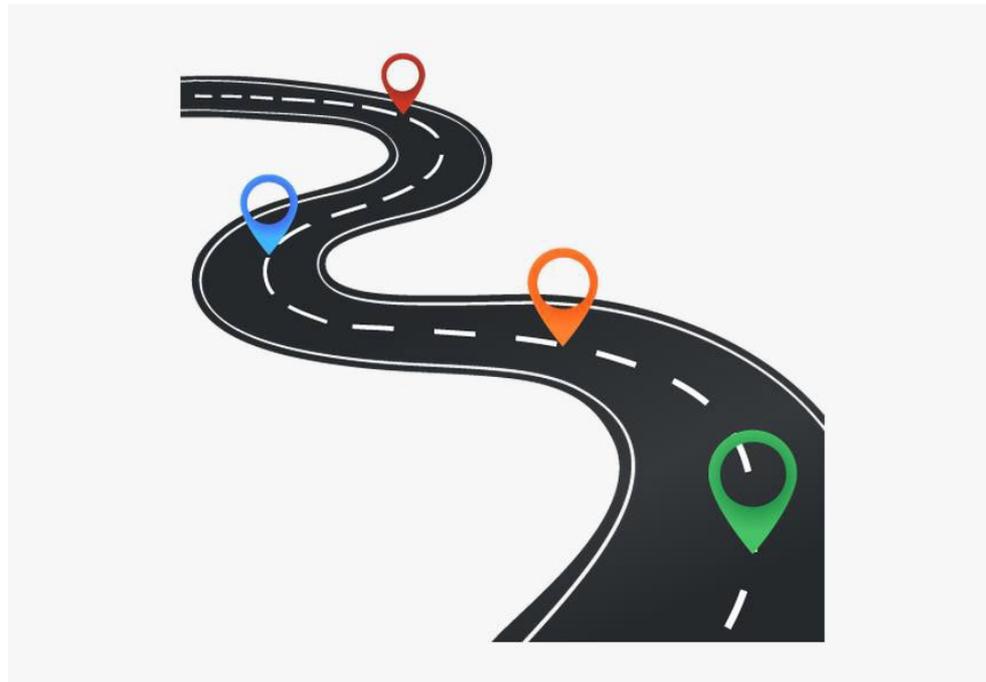
THE BOARDING
CRISIS

Average Duration in Room (Hours)



Next Steps

- Crisis Stabilization Workers
- Probation Officers or Social Workers?



Questions?





Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5411

Agenda #: 8.1

Meeting Date: 3/10/2026

Adjournment