

HANDOUTS

Dakota County Community Services Committee of the Whole

April 16, 2024

Item 5.1 *Social Services-Housing & Community Resources*

Revised Request: Authorization To Allocate Local Affordable Housing Aid Services And Amend 2024 Social Services Budget

Original Request: *Authorization To Allocate Local Affordable Housing Aid To Emergency Rental Assistance And Apartment Services, Execute Contracts For Related Services, And Amend 2024 Social Services Budget*

**The revised Request for Board Action is attached.



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3296

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 4/16/2024

DEPARTMENT: Social Services-Housing & Community Resources

FILE TYPE: Regular Action

TITLE

Authorization To Allocate Local Affordable Housing Aid To Emergency Rental Assistance Services And Amend 2024 Social Services Budget

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Authorize allocation of Local Affordable Housing Aid to Emergency Rental Assistance Services and amendment to the 2024 Social Services Budget.

SUMMARY

In 2021, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners reconvened the Housing Leadership Workgroup to assess the outcomes of the County's Housing Business Plan and make recommendations for future housing initiatives and investments in Dakota County.

The workgroup was made up of faith leaders, law enforcement, people who have experienced homelessness, nonprofit partners, Dakota County Commissioners, and staff from the Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) and the County. The workgroup recommended investments in three main areas to support the next phase of the Dakota County Housing Business Plan: shelter, homelessness prevention, and affordable housing. Staff presented these recommendations to the County Board on October 19, 2021. Staff returned to the County Board throughout 2022 and 2023 with additional information and further defined recommendations in each of the three investment areas.

The 2024 County Budget included initial investments utilizing the new State and Local Affordable Housing Aid, including Emergency Rental Assistance, ApartmentConnect, Prevention and Navigation Services, Family Voucher Program and Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing Services.

On March 27, 2024, Community Services and the CDA proposed an expanded set of Affordable Housing Aid investments during a Board Workshop. The County Board requested that additional eligible activities that can be launched quickly be brought back for formal consideration.

There is an immediate need for Emergency Rental Assistance funding to support the Housing Clinic at Eviction Court and Social Services' Prevention Services and Navigation Team for prevention assistance prior to an eviction filing. Social Services estimates \$6,000,000 of total need for Emergency Rental Assistance and is requesting an additional \$1,500,000 for 2024.

OUTCOMES

How Much? 230 additional households per year receive emergency rental assistance

How Well? Prevent evictions and homelessness for Dakota County residents

Is Anyone Better Off? 230 additional households per year maintain housing stability through emergency rental assistance

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Dakota County Board of Commissioners allocates \$1,500,000 additional Affordable Housing Aid funds toward emergency rental assistance services and amendment to the 2024 Social Services Budget.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

There is a \$0 net County cost as a result of this action. The 2024 Social Services budget is requested to be amended to add \$1,500,000 of Affordable Housing Aid funds and expenditures.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners reconvened the Housing Leadership Workgroup to assess outcomes of the County's Housing Business Plan and make recommendations for future housing initiatives and investments in Dakota County; and

WHEREAS, the workgroup was made up of faith leaders, law enforcement, people who have experienced homelessness, nonprofit partners, Dakota County Commissioners, and staff from the Community Services and the Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) and the County; and

WHEREAS, the workgroup recommended investments in three main areas to support the next phase of the Dakota County Housing Business Plan: shelter, homelessness prevention, and affordable Housing; and

WHEREAS, staff presented these recommendations to the County Board on October 19, 2021, and returned to the County Board throughout 2022 and 2023 with additional information and further defined recommendations in each of the three investment areas; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 County Budget included initial investments utilizing the new State and Local Affordable Housing Aid, including Emergency Rental Assistance, ApartmentConnect, Prevention and Navigation Services, Family Voucher Program and Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing Services; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2024, staff proposed an expanded set of Affordable Housing Aid investments during a Board Workshop and the County Board requested additional eligible activities that can be launched quickly be brought back for formal consideration; and

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need for Emergency Rental Assistance funding to support the Housing Clinic at Eviction Court and Social Services' Prevention Services and Navigation Team for

prevention assistance prior to an eviction filing; and

WHEREAS, Social Services estimates \$6,000,000 of total need for emergency rental assistance and is requesting an additional \$1,500,000 for 2024; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Social Services budget is requested to be amended to add \$1,500,000 of Affordable Housing Aid funds and expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to allocate \$1,500,000 additional Affordable Housing Aid funds toward emergency rental assistance services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, if awarded, the 2024 Social Services Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Expense

Emergency Rental Assistance	<u>\$1,500,000</u>
Total Expense	\$1,500,000

Revenue

Affordable Housing Aid	<u>\$1,500,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,500,000

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: None.

BOARD GOALS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Great Place to Live | <input type="checkbox"/> A Healthy Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Successful Place for Business and Jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Public Service |

CONTACTS

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