



Dakota County

General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Agenda

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

9:30 AM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

(or following County Board)

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 come forward at this time. Comments are limited to five minutes.

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

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

CONSENT AGENDA

4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on April 7, 2026 and April 14, 2026

REGULAR AGENDA

5. County Board/County Administration

5.1 *Communications and Public Affairs* - Legislative Update

6. Central Operations

6.1 *Office of Performance and Analysis (OPA)* - Update On Services From Nonprofit Vendors

7. **County Manager/Deputy/Director's Report**
8. **Future Agenda Items**
9. **Adjournment**
 - 9.1 Adjournment

For more information, call 651-438-4417
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<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Pages/default.aspx>
Public Comment can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us



General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5583

Agenda #: 3.1

Meeting Date: 4/21/2026

Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5584

Agenda #: 4.1

Meeting Date: 4/21/2026

Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on April 7, 2026 and April 14, 2026



Dakota County

General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

9:30 AM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

(or following County Board)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Workman at 11:15 a.m.

Present	Commissioner Mike Slavik Commissioner Laurie Halverson Commissioner William Droste Commissioner Liz Workman Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland
Absent	Commissioner Joe Atkins

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.

2. Audience

Chair Workman noted that all public comments can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us
No comments were received for this agenda.

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

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: William Droste

Ayes: 6

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Halverson, seconded by Commissioner Slavik, the Consent agenda was approved as follows:

4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on March 24, 2026

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Mike Slavik

Ayes: 6

5. Central Operations

5.1 Update On Dakota County Investment Portfolio For 2025

Information only; no action requested.

6. County Board/County Administration

6.1 2026 Board Priorities First Quarter Update

Information only; no action requested.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. County Board/County Administration

7.1 Legislative Update

Mary Beth Schubert, Communications and Public Affairs Director briefed this item.

- HF3927 - a bonding bill for Lebanon Hills and Lake Byllesby campground buildings and swimming beach facility replacement will be heard at an informational hearing at the House Capital Investment Committee today.

- Heard in passing that Region's Hospital wants to be included on any Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) bailout and have indicated they may approach Dakota County to join a coalition of support.

- As of last week, all applications for Congressionally Directed Spending have been submitted to Craig, Klobuchar and Smith's offices. These also included letters of support from Cities of Rosemount, Farmington, Lakeville, the Lakeville Chamber, Dakota County Regional Chamber and Farmington Area Public Schools ISD 192.

- A potential letter of opposition was presented in opposition to the federal Dept. of Transportation expressing concerns with the Regional Solicitation's Community Considerations criteria and it's implementing process, which is scheduled to be approved by Met Council at its April 22, 2026 meeting. The committee directed staff to proceed with the letter.

Mike Erlandson and Tom Downs, Downs representatives were present via interactive technology and provided a federal legislative update. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Information only; no action requested.

8. Central Operations

8.1 Update On Services From Nonprofit Vendors

The following non-profit vendors were present and gave a high-level overview of their services. Representatives with the vendors responded to questions.

360 Communities - Jeff Mortensen (President and CEO)
Ally - Amber Hanson (Director of Housing and Homeless Services)
Avivo - Becca Lopez (Vice President) and Julie Kizlik (Director)
Center City Housing - Nancy Cashman (Executive Director)
Dakota Woodlands - Colleena Carlisle (Executive Director)

Information only; no action requested.

9. Public Services and Revenue

9.1 Discussion And Direction On Public Art Blueprint Draft Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles, And Opportunities

This item was not presented due to time constraints. Discussion on this topic will be held at a future meeting.

Information only; no action requested.

10. County Manager/Deputy/Director's Report

County Manager Heidi Welsch provided a brief update on the budget and referenced the Division Director's Reports that were distributed.

11. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Slavik shared information regarding the upcoming Open House for Ravenna Trail, County Project 54-011. Continued discussion on this topic may potentially come to a future meeting.

12. Adjournment

12.1 Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Slavik, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeni Reynolds
Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board



Dakota County

General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

9:00 AM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Workman at 9:00 a.m.

Present

- Commissioner Mike Slavik
- Commissioner Joe Atkins
- Commissioner Laurie Halverson
- Commissioner William Droste
- Commissioner Liz Workman
- Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
- Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.

2. Audience

Chair Workman noted that all public comments can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us
No comments were received for this agenda.

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

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

Ayes: 7

REGULAR AGENDA

4. County Board/County Administration

4.1 Legislative Update

Mary Beth Schubert, Communications and Public Affairs Director briefed this item. Paul Cassidy and Dan Dwight, Stinson representatives and Mike Erlandson and Tom Downs, Downs representatives were present via interactive technology and provided a state and federal legislative update. The updates were on legislative activity and the County's priority bills. The committee was

informed of plans to meet with Dakota County legislators at the Capitol April 22, 2026. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Information only; no action requested.

5. Adjournment

5.1 Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeni Reynolds
Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board



General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5541

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 4/21/2026

DEPARTMENT: Communications and Public Affairs

FILE TYPE: Regular Information

TITLE

Legislative Update

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Provide an update on legislative topics.

SUMMARY

Staff will share developments related to the County’s legislative priorities. The update may also include discussion on other State and Federal legislative topics of interest to Dakota County.

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

- A Great Place to Live
- A Healthy Environment
- A Successful Place for Business and Jobs
- Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head/Author: Mary Beth Schubert



Legislative Update

April 21, 2026

- State update
- Federal update
- Capitol visits tomorrow
- RZ Plus ribbon cutting – April 29
- Remaining Funds For Thompson County Park Phase II Master Plan Improvements
- Other items?



Remaining Funds For Thompson County Park Phase II Master Plan Improvements

Georg Fischer

Assistant County Manager- Physical Development

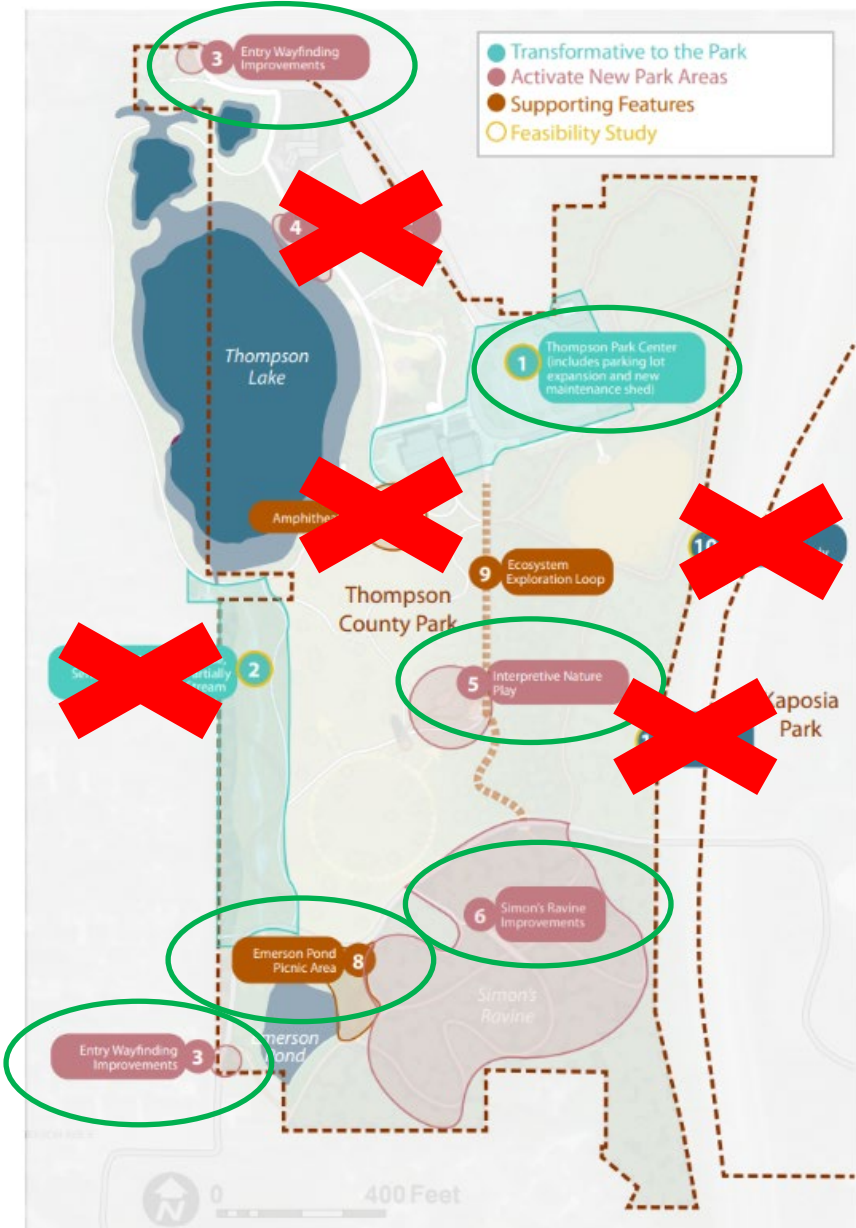
April 21, 2026 General Government and Policy Committee Meeting

- 2023 appropriation language states that the \$2M would be used for design.
- Approximately \$1.2M remains after the completion of schematic design.
- An amendment would allow use of the balance for final design AND construction of one or more of the designed projects.

- Schematic Design
 - Dakota Lodge Renovations and Improvements and Parking Lot Expansion
 - Amphitheater
 - Wayfinding Improvements
 - Accessible Trail Loop & Nature Play
 - Simons Ravine Trails(Bridge and Overlook with Trail Upgrades)
 - Emerson Pond Picnic Area (Greenway Rest Area)
 - Pollinator Promenade, Sensory Garden, and Partially Daylighted Stream
 - Paddle Launch
 - Playground Shade
 - Land Bridge and Sound Mitigation

- Schematic Design
 - **Dakota Lodge Renovations and Improvements and Parking Lot Expansion**
 - ~~Amphitheater~~
 - **Wayfinding Improvements**
 - **Accessible Trail Loop & Nature Play**
 - **Simons Ravine Trails (Bridge and Overlook with Trail Upgrades)**
 - **Emerson Pond Picnic Area (Greenway Rest Area)**
 - ~~Pollinator Promenade, Sensory Garden, and Partially Daylighted Stream~~
 - ~~Paddle Launch~~
 - ~~Playground Shade~~
 - ~~Land Bridge and Sound Mitigation~~

Project Locations



Dakota Lodge Improvements: \$265K

- New Mechanical Controls: ~\$40K
- LED Lighting Retrofit: ~\$225K
 - Up to \$1,500 annually savings (15% savings)



Wayfinding Improvements: \$250K

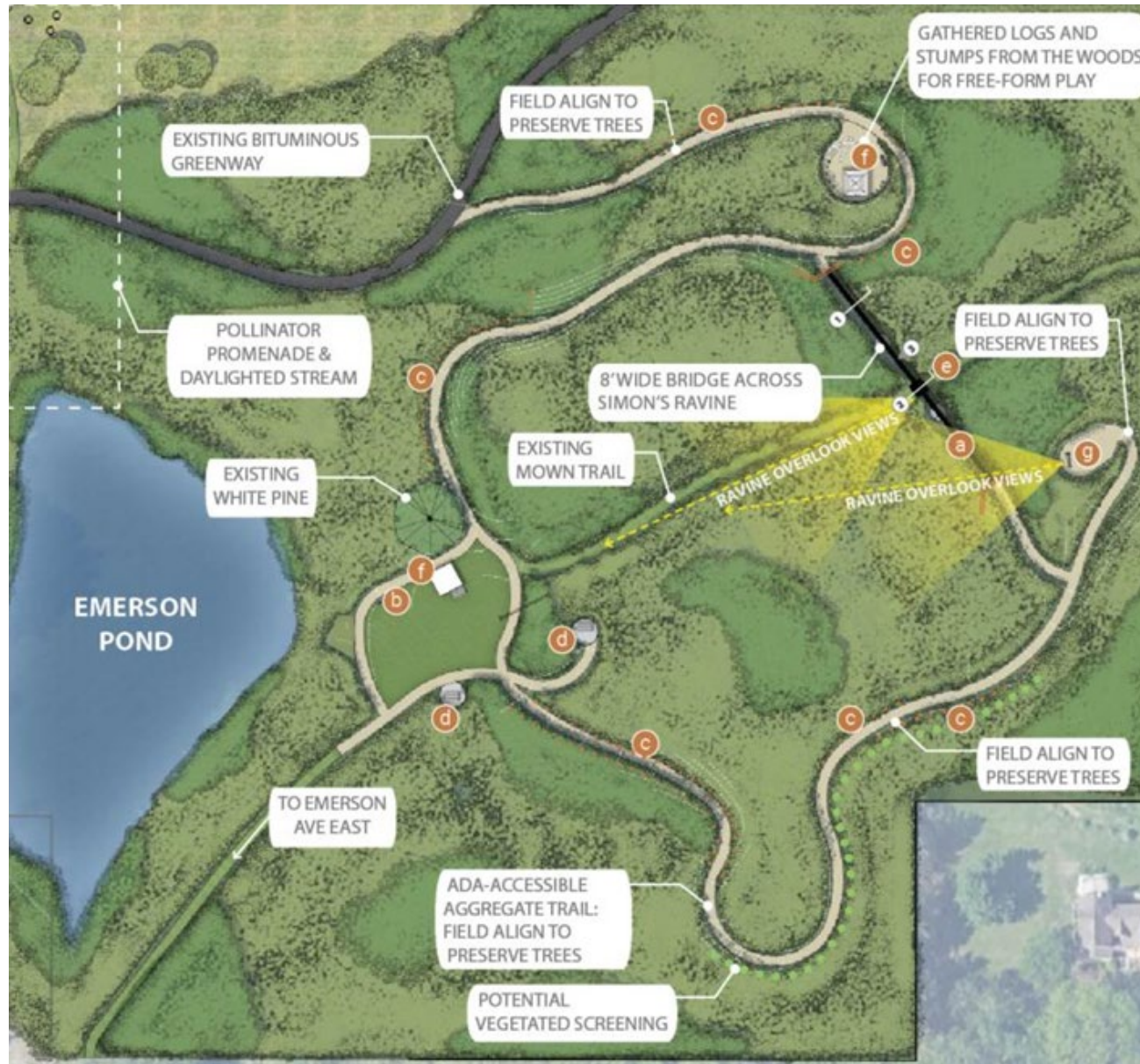


SPERL STREET ENTRY ~\$125K



BUTLER AVENUE ENTRY ~\$125K

Simon's Ravine Trails & Emerson Pond Picnic Area: \$2.25M Total



- Phase 1: Picnic Shelter, Trails and Overlook: \$1.1M
- Phase 2: Ravine Bridge: \$1.15M

County Board Direction



Project Name:	Estimated Project Cost:
Dakota Lodge Improvements: Mechanical Controls	\$40,000
Dakota Lodge Improvements: LED Lighting	\$225,000
Wayfinding Improvements: Sperl Street Entry	\$125,000
Wayfinding Improvements: Butler Avenue Entry	\$125,000
Accessible Trail & Nature Play	\$800,000
Simons Ravine & Emerson Pond Phase 1: Picnic Shelter and Trails	\$1,100,000
Simons Ravine Phase 2: Ravine Bridge and Overlook	\$1,150,000
TOTAL	\$3,565,000
Staff Recommendation Total	\$1,190,000

Up to \$1.2M available

Bold: Staff recommendation

Amphitheater





General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5570

Agenda #: 6.1

Meeting Date: 4/21/2026

DEPARTMENT: Office of Performance and Analysis (OPA)

FILE TYPE: Regular Information

TITLE

Update On Services From Nonprofit Vendors

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Receive presentations from major nonprofit vendors that Dakota County utilizes for service provision.

SUMMARY

In order to provide services to county residents, Dakota County contracts with 501(c)(3) nonprofit vendors. The ten nonprofit vendors with the largest county contracts have been invited to present to the Board of County Commissioners and provide an update regarding their activities. Although nonprofit vendors provide services across county divisions and elected offices, the largest nonprofit vendors perform work primarily through Community Services.

Although it is structured as a Limited Liability Company (LLC) and not a nonprofit, Ally Supportive Services has also been included in the list of ten organizations scheduled to present. Ally's inclusion is an example of an organization with a different structure that the county contracts with for services.

The ten presentations were scheduled over two separate General Government and Policy Committee (GGP) meetings. Each presentation was scheduled for 10-15 minutes.

Organizations that presented at the April 7, 2026, GGP meeting included 360 Communities, Ally Supportive Services, Avivo, Center City Housing Corporation (CCHC), and Dakota Woodlands.

Nonprofit presentations scheduled on April 21, 2026, provide the following services for Dakota County:

- **DARTS** provides a variety of services to older adults and their caregivers.
- **Guild** provides community-based mental health, housing, and employment services to individuals with mental health challenges and those who are unhoused.
- **Nexus Family Healing** provides community mental health; crisis and stabilization; foster care and adoption; and residential treatment services.
- **Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency** provides housing, homelessness, and emergency rental assistance services.

- **The Link** provides services to youth and young families experiencing homelessness, including emergency housing and case management.

In addition to the presentations, summaries of the nonprofit activities have been provided and include the nonprofit's mission; the number of contracts they have with the county, including a description of each service, the funding source, and contract dates; a description of the oversight provided for their services; outcome measures provided by the nonprofits illustrating the impact of their services on county residents; a description of the applicable mandates for the services; and financial information, including the budgeted contract amount for 2026-2027.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

See attachments for individual nonprofit financial information.

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

RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment: DARTS Summary Document
- Attachment: Guild Summary Document
- Attachment: Guild Presentation Slides
- Attachment: Nexus Family Healing Summary Document
- Attachment: Nexus Presentation Slides
- Attachment: Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency Summary Document
- Attachment: CAP Presentation Slides
- Attachment: The Link Summary Document
- Attachment: The Link Presentation Slides

BOARD GOALS

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

CONTACT

Department Head: Dave Paulsen
Author: Penny Anderson

DARTS

Presenter: Mike Lavin, President, mike.lavin@darts1.org, 651-455-1560

Program Overview

Mission: DARTS mission is to help seniors stay right where they want to be. DARTS partners with Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) senior buildings to provide expert service coordination. Their Healthy Aging Specialists are specially trained to help older adults navigate everything from finding local resources to securing essential home services. By providing consistent, ongoing support, DARTS ensures residents have the stability and assistance they need to thrive in the home of their choice.

Contract: Dakota County has **1** contract with **DARTS** for the following service:

Service	Service Description	Funding Source(s)	Contract Term Date
Apartment Services for Seniors	Provide the senior apartment services program, to include a total of 15 buildings across Egan, Rosemount, Hastings, Mendota Heights, West St. Paul, and South St Paul. Goals for this program are to provide early intervention and navigation support services to seniors, to prevent homelessness or solve the housing instability, and promote healthy living for seniors by ensuring seniors can meet their basic housing and health needs.	100% funded by Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) – MN Department of Revenue.	1/1/2026-12/31/2027

Strategic Alignment

DARTS work supports and aligns with the following County Board strategies:

Thriving people: Dakota County creates access to opportunities, cares for vulnerable people, and fosters community safety, health and well-being.

Oversight

DARTS provides quarterly reports to the county that include:

- Number of clients served (how much)
- Process measures (how well)
- Outcomes (is anyone better off)
- Budget versus actual expenditure
- Other information as determined by contractor and/or county staff.

A final comprehensive report is due each year and the county will review the following quality assurance at least once per calendar year: Review of reports, review of client case notes, review of staff list and staffing training requirements, and client interviews.

Outcome Measures

DARTS has launched a pilot of this service model in 2017 in partnership with the CDA, beginning in five buildings and quickly expanding to seven. The original approach centered on weekly open office hours in each building, providing residents with consistent, on-site access to support.

As DARTS footprint grew, DARTS tested several service delivery models to determine the most effective and sustainable approach. While most buildings maintained weekly open office hours, a few lower-traffic sites and newly added properties piloted alternative schedules. In these locations, DARTS reduced availability to twice-monthly office hours in some buildings and monthly visits in two others. In the remaining buildings, support was offered by phone or by appointment only.

Through this process, DARTS learned that consistent, visible staff presence significantly increases resident engagement. When residents see staff regularly in their building, they are more likely to seek support and build trusting relationships.

In response to these findings, in June 2025 DARTS started offering weekly open office hours in four buildings that had previously operated by appointment only and added monthly visits to two other buildings.

In 2025, DARTS served unique 377 clients across the buildings they support, reflecting both the need for and impact of consistent on-site services, providing 1,717 services. DARTS currently offers regular support in 15 CDA buildings. At the end of 2025, DARTS surveyed all clients that have used their services. The clients in the CDA buildings reported that 97% feel less isolated and 97% feel more connected in the community. DARTS added a new survey question this year, which asked “How important are DARTS’ services in helping you feel stable and secure in your housing?”, 92% of respondents answered that they are “very important” or “somewhat important.”

Mandates

Mandate Level (Board Decision) – Program Name, Authority for Program (Statute, Resolution, etc.), Program Description:

The Board of Commissioners is not mandated to provide or contract for these services.

Financials

Total Contracted Payments 2024-2025: \$563,777

Service	Contract Budget 2026-2027
Apartment Services for Seniors	\$424,000

Guild

Presenter: John Adamas, Chief Clinical Officer, jadams@guildservices.org, 651-503-0986

Program Overview

Mission: Guild partners with people living with mental health challenges and those who are unhoused, supporting their goals and honoring their strengths. Through community-based mental health, housing, and supported employment services, we support individuals as they build stability and resilience. We prioritize their choices, ensuring every person has a voice in their care and is supported in a way that honors safety, trust, and empowerment.

Contract(s): Dakota County has 5 contracts with **Guild** for the following service(s):

Service	Service Description	Funding Source(s)	Contract Term Date
Targeted Case Management (TCM)	To provide mental health services to individuals by Rule 79 and to support individuals in the least restrictive setting by identifying appropriate community resources address the identified need of the individual. Assist and support the individual towards long-term independent community living through regular review of the case plan, to adjust the client’s Individual Treatment Plan (ITP) goals to reflect the client’s current and priority needs, and to redirect the services accordingly.	100% funded by MA billing and AMHI/CSP Grant funded for uninsured/under insured	1/1/2024-12/31/2026

Service	Service Description	Funding Source(s)	Contract Term Date
<p>Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Community Support Program (CSP) Drop In Center Services</p>	<p>ACT: To assist and support the consumer towards long-term independent community living and to construct a case plan with the consumer to reflect the consumer’s needs, priority of needs, and to establish service goals that assist and support the consumer towards long-term independent community. Prevent homelessness by stabilizing households at risk of homelessness, rehouse those experiencing homelessness, and eliminate repeat episodes of homelessness.</p> <p>CSP: The Community Support Program Service Center at 1740 Livingston Avenue in West Saint Paul is the hub for an array of psychiatric rehabilitation services designed to support recovery and self-sufficiency for adults 18 and in Dakota County experiencing schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and other mental illnesses of a serious nature.</p> <p>Services include Assertive Community Treatment, Targeted Case Management Services, Care Coordination</p> <p>Employment Services, and the GCSP Drop-in Center services.</p>	<p>100% funded by MA billing and AMHI/CSP Grant funded for uninsured/under insured</p>	<p>1/1/2024-12/31/2026</p>

Service	Service Description	Funding Source(s)	Contract Term Date
Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) and Crisis Bed Stabilization Services	<p>IRTS: Consumers will develop and enhance their psychiatric stability, personal and emotional adjustment, self-sufficiency, and skills in order to live in a more independent setting. The program will work towards restoring the consumer’s functioning using a rehabilitative focus.</p> <p>Crisis Bed Stabilization Services: The goal of the service is to stabilize the consumer to his/her pre-crisis level. Guild is responsible to screen, assess, and determine an individual’s need for admission to the Crisis Bed Stabilization Program if a bed is available. These services are provided by the Guild to those consumers who are referred for placement in the crisis bed Stabilization component of Guild South, located at 314 Second Street North, South St. Paul, MN and Crisis and Recovery Center, located at 2025 Livingston Ave, West St. Paul, MN.</p>	100% funded by MA billing and AMHI/CSP Grant funded for uninsured/under insured	1/1/2026-12/31/2027
Individualized Placement and Support (IPS) Employment Services	To assist consumers in finding, getting and keeping suitable competitive employment and to implement and utilize the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model and principles when providing employment services.	100% funded by AMHI/CSP Grant	1/1/2026-12/31/2027
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Cooperative Agreement (MOU)	The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to help persons with a serious mental illness including those who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness to access needed housing, treatment and supportive services, and income supports and to encourage cooperation and partnership between the Guild, Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care (SMAC), and Dakota County.	NA	7/1/2024-6/30/2029

Strategic Alignment

Guild supports and aligns with the following County Board strategies:

Thriving people: Dakota County creates access to opportunities, cares for vulnerable people, and fosters community safety, health and well-being.

Oversight

Targeted Case Management (TCM): The County and Guild work collaboratively to look at current reporting tools, outcome data, and update or change information as agreed upon. Quality assurance measures include the following:

- Guild will conduct annual, random participation surveys.
- Guild will engage in collaborative Peer Reviews annually for quality assurance, review of person-centered planning, and compliance with DHS Rule 79 standards.
- Guild agrees to furnish the County with reports or records in the form and at frequencies requested by the County for financial evaluation, payment reimbursement, and program management and evaluation purposes.
- Personnel of the County reserve the right to conduct periodic site visits to determine compliance with this contract and to evaluate the quality of services purchased under this contract. Visits may be made with or without prior notice at any time within the hours of operation of Contractor. Contractor shall be furnished, upon request, a summary of any reports prepared because of the visit.

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Community Support Program (CSP) Drop In Center Services:

ACT: Guild provides biannual reporting with the use of the Housing and Employment template in SSIS for each person served during the specified time period. Reporting point-in-time and deadlines will occur in May and November of each year, unless otherwise indicated in writing by the County. The County and Guild continue to work collaboratively to look at current reporting tools, outcome data and update or change as agreed upon.

CSP: On annual basis members have an opportunity to take the Recovery Assessment Scale survey that measures the individuals score to statements in five recovery domains. These scores are then linked to expected behaviors and outcomes and demonstrate the impact of the Drop-in Center activities.

Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) and Crisis Bed Stabilization Services: Guild submits a quarterly program (IRTS) and statistical report to the County Contract Manager within 15 days of the end of the reporting quarter, and a quarterly program Crisis Bed Stabilization Services (CS) report. The County's procedures for monitoring and evaluating performance may include, but are not limited to, on-site visits to the Guild's locations, review of Contractor's financial, statistical, and program records; and review of reports and data supplied by Guild at the County's request.

Individualized Placement and Support (IPS) Employment Services: Guild submits the "IPS Supported Employment Quarterly Outcome Report" or other required State of MN IPS report(s) that address outcome measures. The reporting on outcome measures is to include Dakota County consumers who have received IPS services during the reporting period.

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Cooperative Agreement (MOU): The agreement will be reviewed annually to ensure the policies and procedures in place are effective in individuals accessing services and housing and are satisfactory to all parties. Each agency is responsible for maintaining and managing its own records. Guild will be responsible to the Department of Human Services Adult Mental Health Division regarding its reporting responsibilities and Dakota County will be responsible to the Minnesota Department of Health Services regarding its reporting responsibilities. The agencies will work cooperatively to ensure all reporting requirements are fulfilled.

Outcome Measures

Clients Served and Program Capacity	IRTS	Crisis	Assertive Community Treatment	Targeted Case management	IPS/supported employment
Clients Served	69	76	53	526	162
Capacity percentage	85%	85%	106%	88%	116%

Mandates

Mandate Level (Board Decision) – Program Name, Authority for Program (Statute, Resolution, etc.), Program Description:

Dakota County’s mental health system complies with the requirements of the Minnesota Comprehensive Adult Mental Health Services Act (Act). The Act establishes basic standards for adult mental health services in Minnesota, primarily directed at counties, which are designated as local mental health authorities and obligates county boards to develop and coordinate a system of affordable and locally available adult mental health services in accordance with Minn. Stat. § § 245.641 to 245.486. Dakota County delivers these mandated services both directly and through purchased services. Additionally, Minn. Stat. Chapter 253B (Civil Commitment Act) obligates counties to certain duties, including payments to facilities for involuntary and commitment hold. Board Resolution 23-473; 10/24/2023

Financials

Total Contracted Payments 2024-2025: \$2,515,650

Services	Contract Budget 2026-2027
Targeted Case Management (TCM)	\$1,500,000
Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Community Support Program (CSP) Services	\$550,000
Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) and Crisis Bed Stabilization Services	\$250,000
Individualized Placement and Support (IPS) Employment Services	\$389,328
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Cooperative Agreement (MOU)	\$0

John Adams, MSW, LICSW

Chief Clinical Officer



Empowering People.
Empowering Change.

Services provided in Dakota County



- Residential Services (IRTS/Crisis)
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
- Targeted Case Management (TCM)
- Employment Services
- Community Support Program (CSP)
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

Residential and Crisis Services

- **Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS)** offer a safe, home-like environment to develop or enhance the stability of mental and/or chemical health for up to 90 days.
- **Crisis Stabilization** services offer up to 10 days of intensive services to stabilize and determine the next best level of care.
- Staff are available 24/7 to address client needs.
- Services are provided by an interdisciplinary team including mental health counselors, mental health practitioners, peer recovery specialist, psychiatrist, registered nurse, and a licensed mental health professional.



Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)

- **Assertive Community Treatment** provides a single, fixed point of responsibility for treatment, rehabilitation, and support needs for clients.
- Aims to prevent homelessness by stabilizing mental health and building useful skills.
- ACT clients can also receive other services from Guild at the same time, such as Employment Services or IRTS.
- Services are offered 24/7 in a community-based setting by an interdisciplinary team including a psychiatrist, registered nurse, case managers, peer support specialist, and a clinical supervisor.

Targeted Case Management (TCM)

- **Targeted Case Management** is a client-centered, community-based program that supports individuals with SPMI to live as independently as possible.
- Goal setting is client led, and can include functional assessments, individual community support plans, and diagnostic assessments.
- Services are provided by a team of case managers and a qualified mental health professional.
- TCM clients often receive other Guild services as well, such as Employment Services or IRTS.

Employment Services

- Our **Employment Services** program views work holistically as a critical part of the recovery process.
- We use the **Individual Placement and Support (IPS)** model, which is an evidence-based practice of supported employment.
- Our Employment Specialists support clients in:
 - Determining career interests and searching for jobs
 - Preparing for interviews and finding the resources needed to succeed.
 - Deciding whether to disclose mental illness to employer.
 - Maintaining employment.
 - Partnering with mental health treatment teams and vocational rehabilitation services when appropriate.



Community Support Program (CSP)

- The **Community Support Program (CSP)** center in West Saint Paul is a hub for an array of psychiatric rehabilitation services designed to support recovery and self-sufficiency.
- Clients can receive Assertive Community Treatment, Targeted Case Management, and Employment Services at the CSP in addition to in their communities.
- CSP Drop-in Center activities include art classes, museum trips, personal finance and career classes.
- A client-led member council makes decisions for CSP operations.

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Cooperative Agreement (MOU)

- Our **PATH** teams are mobile, building rapport, connecting unsheltered people to housing waitlists/coordinated entry services and other resources needed to access housing.
- Our teams meet people at encampments, libraries, parks, and shelters.
- PATH works with and accepts referrals from community partners, including law enforcement, shelters, food shelves, treatment programs, and faith-based organizations.

Program Outcome Measures for 2025

	Intensive Residential Treatment Services	Crisis Services	Assertive Community Treatment	Targeted Case Management	Employment Services	PATH
# of Clients Served	69	76	53	526	162	91
% of Capacity	85%	85%	106%	88%	116%	73%

Financials for 2025

	Budget 2026 – 2027
Targeted Case Management (TCM)	\$1,500,000
Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Community Support Program (CSP) Services	\$550,000
Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) and Crisis Bed Stabilization Services	\$250,000
Individualized Placement and Support (IPS) Employment Services	\$389,328
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Cooperative Agreement (MOU)	\$0

Questions



Empowering People.
Empowering Change.

Nexus Family Healing

Presenter: Nicole Muecheck, Executive Director, nmuecheck@nexusfamilyhealing.org, 612-368-2950

Co-Presenter: Taylor Wolf, Admissions Supervisor, twolf@nexusfamilyhealing.org, 763-516-2531

Program Overview

Mission: Changing the course of a child’s life by stabilizing families and strengthening mental health.

Nexus Family Healing is a national nonprofit mental health organization that restores hope for thousands of children, families, and adults each year through services in community mental health, crisis and stabilization, foster care and adoption, and residential treatment.

For over 50 years, Nexus Family Healing has used innovative, personalized approaches to heal trauma, break cycles of harm, and reshape futures. Their belief is that every child is worth it and every family matters.

Contract(s): Dakota County has 2 contracts with **Nexus Family Healing** for the following service(s):

Service	Service Description	Funding Source(s)	Contract Term Date
Youth Shelter Support Services (Aspen House)	Nexus provides a safe and secured shelter facility that operates 24/7/365 with a structured environment including therapeutic and recreational activities. They coordinate services for youth and/or provide referrals to the family for services that supports the youth’s wellbeing. They work to reduce barriers and promote reunification of youth and family by conducting individualized case and transition planning with the youth’s support team.	100% funded by County Levy	1/1/2025-12/31/2026

Service	Service Description	Funding Source(s)	Contract Term Date
In-Home and Community-Based Services: Systemic Family Therapy (SFT) and Community Reintegration Services (CRS)	Nexus provides SFT and CRS services to avoid out-of-home placements, reduce length of stay in out-of-home placements, and provide transition support for youth coming out of placement. This service increases family functioning and decreases involvement with delinquent peers. SFT and CRS increases parental monitoring, structure and support to improve youth behavioral and emotional functioning.	100% funded by County Levy	1/1/2023-12/31/2026

Strategic Alignment

Nexus Family Healing’s work supports and aligns with the following County Board strategies:

Thriving people: Dakota County creates access to opportunities, cares for vulnerable people, and fosters community safety, health and well-being.

Oversight

Youth Shelter Support Services (Aspen House): A monthly Census Summary is sent along with the monthly statement that includes the total utilization of the shelter by the authorizing County or entity for each youth. Contractor will provide to the County with quarterly financial reports documenting actual costs and expenditures. Nexus and County meet quarterly to review and compare the financial reports actual costs to the Per Diem on a quarterly basis. At a minimum of at each year’s end, the Contractor and the County will meet to reassess the Per Diem based on the analysis of the quarterly financial reports.

In-Home and Community-Based Services: Nexus provides a monthly summary for CRS and weekly summary for SFT in a format with clearly written overarching goals that are measurable, directly related to the reasons for referral, and intermediary goals directly related to the goals. This includes client name, and a list of all the referral sources or key participants (i.e., County Case Manager, WRAP facilitator, school rep). Nexus submits updated monthly CRS monthly summaries and SFT weekly summaries that include updated intermediary goals. Nexus submits monthly paperwork to designated County Contact person to include weekly and monthly summaries, billing, client contact and aggregate reports and submits discharge report within thirty days of case closing.

Outcome Measures

SFT/CIBS and CRS – Survey Results and CANS Data/Functioning 2025

100% of responses to the “Client Satisfaction Survey,” agree with the statement, “I am satisfied with the services I/my child received.”

100% of clients served in CRS successfully discharged, meaning they completed one or more treatment goals.

Overall

In 2025/2026, Nexus Family Healing served 12 clients from Dakota County across SFT/CIBS and CRS programs.

Across all community-based services (SFT/CIBS, CRS, CTSS, and Outpatient), Nexus Family Healing served 77 clients from Dakota County in 2025/2026.

Aspen House – Dakota County Youth Served in 2025

Aspen House provided 38 youth from Dakota County with a safe place stay for an average 16 days.

In 2025, 74% of Dakota Youth discharged from Aspen House to either reunite with family or step down to a lower level of care.

16% of youth discharged to a more restrictive setting as part of their discharge plan.

10% of youth eloped, down 7.2% from 2024.

90% of Dakota youth were able to successfully stay in Aspen House’s care until a planned discharge to another placement was arranged.

Youth Satisfaction Discharge Survey – Aspen House 2025

Some areas rated favorably by youth included “Your safety with staff,” “The staff’s respect of your rights,” and “Staff help with getting you ready for discharge.”

Mandates

Mandate Level (Board Decision) – Program Name, Authority for Program (Statute, Resolution, etc.), Program Description:

Youth Shelter Support Services (Aspen House): The Board of Commissioners is not mandated to provide or contract for these services.

In-Home and Community-Based Services: The Board of Commissioners is not mandated to provide or contract for these services.

Financials

Total Contracted Payments 2024-2025: \$1,771,520

Service	Contract Budget 2026-2027
Youth Shelter Support Services (Aspen House)	\$1,900,000
In-Home and Community-Based Services	\$200,000



Restoring Hope. Reshaping Futures.



Nicole Muccheck, Executive Director

Taylor Wolf, Admissions Supervisor

April 21st, 2026

Who We Are

Nexus Family Healing is a national nonprofit mental health organization that restores hope for thousands of children, families, and adults each year through services in community mental health, crisis and stabilization, foster care and adoption, and residential treatment.

For over 50 years, we have used innovative, personalized approaches to heal trauma, break cycles of harm, and reshape futures. We believe every child is worth it — and every family matters.



Our Mission

Changing the course of a child's life by stabilizing families and strengthening mental health.



In Dakota County, We Provide...

+ COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY

Helping families heal – right where they live.

- Telehealth and in-person appointments, as well as in-home, in-school, and other on-site therapy services.
 - **Collaborative Intensive Bridging Services (SFT/CIBS)**
 - **Community Reintegration Services (CRS)**
 - **Children's Therapeutic Services & Supports (CTSS)**

+ CRISIS & STABILIZATION

Responsive support, when it's needed most.

- Crisis intervention, mobile response, stabilization, and bridging services.
 - **Short-Term Youth Shelter - Aspen House**

+ FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

A safe and caring home for every child.



Making an Impact

SFT/CIBS & CRS - Survey Results & CANS Data/Functioning 2025

- **100% of responses** to the "Client Satisfaction Survey," agree with the statement, "I am satisfied with the services I/my child received."
- **100% of clients served in CRS successfully discharged**, meaning they completed one or more treatment goals.

Overall

- **In 2025/2026**, Nexus Family Healing **served 12 clients from Dakota County** across SFT/CIBS and CRS programs.
- Across all community-based services (SFT/CIBS, CRS, CTSS, & Outpatient), Nexus Family Healing served **77 clients from Dakota County in 2025/2026.**

**“Thank you for helping my child become the best version of himself. I thought Nexus was only for him but I quickly learned to become a better version of myself as well. So for that
THANK YOU!”**

- Nexus-FACTS Parent



Making an Impact

Aspen House - Dakota County Youth Served in 2025

- Aspen House provided **38 youth from Dakota County** with a safe place stay, for an average 16 days.
- **Last year in 2025, 74% of Dakota Youth discharged from Aspen House to either reunite with family or step down to a lower level of care.**
 - 16% of youth discharged to a more restrictive setting as part of their discharge plan
 - 10% of youth eloped, down 7.2% from 2024
- **90% of Dakota youth were able to successfully stay in Aspen House's care until a planned discharge to another placement was arranged.**

Youth Satisfaction Discharge Survey – Aspen House 2025

- Some areas rated favorably by youth included "Your safety with staff," "The staff's respect of your rights," and "Staff help with getting you ready for discharge."

"I loved going to the outings and I loved the staff which made me feel like I belonged."

- Aspen House Youth



Questions

Contact Information

- **Nicole Mucheck:** Executive Director,
nmucheck@nexusfamilyhealing.org
- **Taylor Wolf:** Admissions Supervisor,
twolf@nexusfamilyhealing.org



Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency

Presenters: Jackie Lara, Associate Executive Director, jlara@capagency.org, 952-402-9859

Suzie Misel, Director of Housing and Emergency Services, smisel@capagency.org, 952-402-9832

Program Overview

Mission: CAP's mission is to assist and empower people to achieve social and economic well-being in partnership with our community.

Contract(s): Dakota County has 4 contracts with **Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency** for the following service(s):

Service	Service Description	Funding Source(s)	Contract Term Date
Housing Supportive Services – Haralson Apartments	Provide support services for individuals residing at Haralson Apartments in Apple Valley. Persons who qualify for housing at Haralson Apartments, including long-term homeless and persons with a diagnosed Serious Mental Illness.	100% funded by Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) – MN Department of Revenue.	1/1/2026-12/31/2027
Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)	Prevent homelessness by stabilizing households at risk of homelessness, rehouse those experiencing homelessness, and eliminate repeat episodes of homelessness.	100% funded by FHPAP – MN Housing Finance Agency (MHFA)	10/1/2025-9/30/2027
Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)	To provide emergency rental assistance to households with rental arrears to prevent housing instability and evictions.	100% funded by Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) – MN Department of Revenue.	2/25/2026-6/30/2026

Service	Service Description	Funding Source(s)	Contract Term Date
MOU with CAP Agency for set-aside units	Scott-Carver-Dakota (CAP) Agency has nine apartment buildings and thirty-six units for low-income residents located throughout Dakota County. CAP Agency dedicates thirty-six units to individuals experiencing long term homelessness or HUD homelessness who have received a Housing Assistance Program resource through Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry process or have another rental assistance resource. Dakota County has trained and experienced staff that work with individuals experiencing homelessness and will utilize the appropriate Rental Assistance programs.	NA	6/2/2020-12/31/2047

Strategic Alignment

Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency’s work supports and aligns with the following County Board strategies:

Thriving people: Dakota County creates access to opportunities, cares for vulnerable people, and fosters community safety, health and well-being.

Oversight

Housing Supportive Services – Haralson Apartments: Quarterly reports are required summarizing the following: number of referrals, number of unduplicated clients, basic demographics (age, self-identified race, family status, income). Invoices are submitted, at a minimum, quarterly and include specific budget categories and any support documentation.

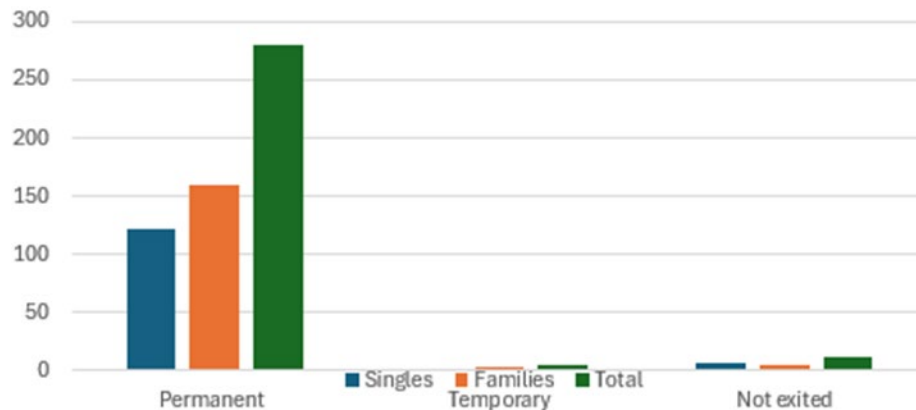
Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP): Monthly verbal updates at the FHPAP Work Group meetings. Quarterly financial Expenditure Reports with outcome and reporting every six months, using format provided and data system required by MN Housing Finance Agency (MHFA). Documentation supporting expenditures (staff time, administrative time, rent and utility payments) will be reviewed during annual site visits. Invoices are submitted at minimum, monthly and invoices must specify funding sources and accurately reflect service and population deemed eligible under funding source.

Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA): Report using LAHA ERA reporting form as provided by Dakota County. Adherence to processes as described in the Dakota County LAHA ERA eligibility requirements and determine eligibility for funding and issue payment within one week.

MOU with CAP Agency for set-aside units: CAP will dedicate 35 units to individuals experiencing homelessness and meet criteria laid out in MOU. Dakota County will provide experienced/trained staff to work with individuals experiencing homelessness and will provide Supportive Services to the DC tenants and coordinate services provided utilizing rental assistance programs.

Outcome Measures

FHPAP Outcome Data



Data from CAP’s 2023-2025 Biennium. Families exiting our program and remain in permanent housing.

Due to **Haralson Apartments** starting January 1, 2026, CAP does not have any outcome data yet to share. CAP was able to meet all but 1 of the 16 tenants. CAP is currently working on building relationships with them and their goals. Several are utilizing the food pick-up from Open Door Pantry and staff have signed them up for Energy Assistance.

CAP Properties continue to work in partnership with Dakota County. CAP currently has 32 of the 36 units filled with a Dakota County referral. CAP is waiting on 4 referrals to be assigned or to determine if they want to be part of CAP’s Housing Program. 88% full.

Mandates

Mandate Level (Board Decision) – Program Name, Authority for Program (Statute, Resolution, etc.), Program Description

Housing Supportive Services – Haralson Apartments: The Board of Commissioners is not mandated to provide or contract for these services.

Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP): By Minn. Stat. § 462A.204, FHPAP grant funding must be administered by counties in the metro area who, in turn, may sub-grant some or all funds to other entities. Board Resolution 25-309; 1/1/2025.

Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA): The Board of Commissioners is not mandated to provide or contract for these services.

MOU with CAP Agency for set-aside units: The Board of Commissioners is not mandated to provide or contract for these services.

Financials

Total Contracted Payments 2024-2025: \$1,690,021

Service	Contract Budget 2026-2027
Housing Supportive Services – Haralson Apartments	\$125,000
Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)	\$585,451
Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)	\$50,000
MOU with CAP Agency for set-aside units	\$0



CAP AGENCY
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
SERVING SCOTT CARVER & DAKOTA COUNTIES

Scott Carver Dakota
CAP Agency

Jackie Lara and Suzie Misel
April 21, 2026



Who we are and what we do

Our Mission:

CAP's mission is to assist and empower people to achieve social and economic well-being in partnership with our community.

Our Goal:

At CAP Agency, we help people break down barriers by providing the tools and resources necessary to achieve success. We partner with businesses, schools, and other leading nonprofit organizations to create vital and lasting connections. We rely on our generous network of volunteers and donors to support our mission and their neighbors, strengthening our community.



Programs we offer



Food and Nutrition

Food shelf, Senior Meals on Wheels, mobile food distribution



Head Start and Early Head Start

Rewarding and accessible education for all



Energy Assistance

Assisting members of our community live comfortably in their homes



Thrift Store

Local Imports, located in Shakopee, puts all proceeds back into serving our communities



Community Programs

Specialty programs offered to CAP clients to assist in times of need



Housing

Allows clients access to a safe and affordable place to live

Senior Nutrition



- Senior Meals on Wheels provides healthy meals to seniors living in Scott, Carver, and Dakota counties.
- Depending on their location, there are two options:
 - Congregate - meals served midday in Belle Plaine and Jordan- No sites in Dakota.
 - Home delivered meals - meals delivered directly to seniors in certain cities

Chore

The Chore Program for Seniors aids residents of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties "age in place," with a variety of in-home services and home to needed destination services:

Yard Maintenance

All year-long tasks with summer lawn mowing, fall leaf raking, winter snow removal, and spring clean-up. House cleaning; deep, routine, and one-time de-cluttering. Minor home repair & other special projects.

Homemaker Services

Includes laundry, grocery shopping, and small meal preparation.

Assisted Transportation

Rides to grocery store, doctor appointments, and other rides from senior's home to location with return trip.

Home Modification

Includes wheelchair ramp construction, shower grab bars installation and other projects.

*Seniors pay on a sliding fee scale based on their stated monthly income. No one is denied service due to inability to pay.



Energy Assistance



The **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs. LIHEAP provides federally funded assistance to reduce the costs associated with

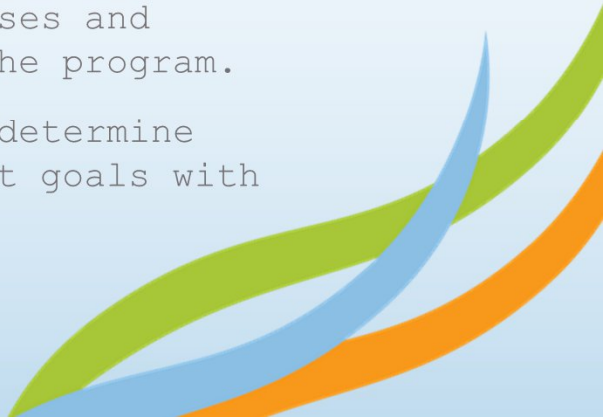
home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and minor energy-related home repairs.

- Program open October 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026
 - Designed to assist low-income households with energy bills.
 - Income Guidelines – 50% MN median income
 - Minimum of \$200 in assistance
 - Max is \$1400
 - Crisis funds to assist with Shut Off, Disconnect Notices, and Seniors with current bills.
 - Program can also assist with furnace repairs and replacements
 - Almost 10,000 applications submitted so far this year.



HS Program Components



- ✔ **Education** - Quality learning experiences to help children grow intellectually, socially, and emotionally.
 - ✔ **Health** - Supporting and providing health services such as immunizations, dental, medical, mental health, nutritional services, and early identification of health problems.
 - ✔ **Parent Involvement** - Involving parents in the planning and implementation of activities. Parents serve on committees that make administrative decisions; participate in classes and workshops on child development; and volunteer in the program.
 - ✔ **Social Services** - Provide outreach to families to determine what services they need, provide resources, and set goals with the family.
- 



Local Imports Thrift Store

Items include high-quality secondhand goods, vintage finds, and specialty pieces.

- Clothing, shoes & accessories
- Furniture, housewares, & home furnishings
- Books, DVDs, sports equipment & toys

100% of the proceeds from Local Imports helps fund our programs



Donation Hours:

11am-5pm M-F & 9am-3pm Sat

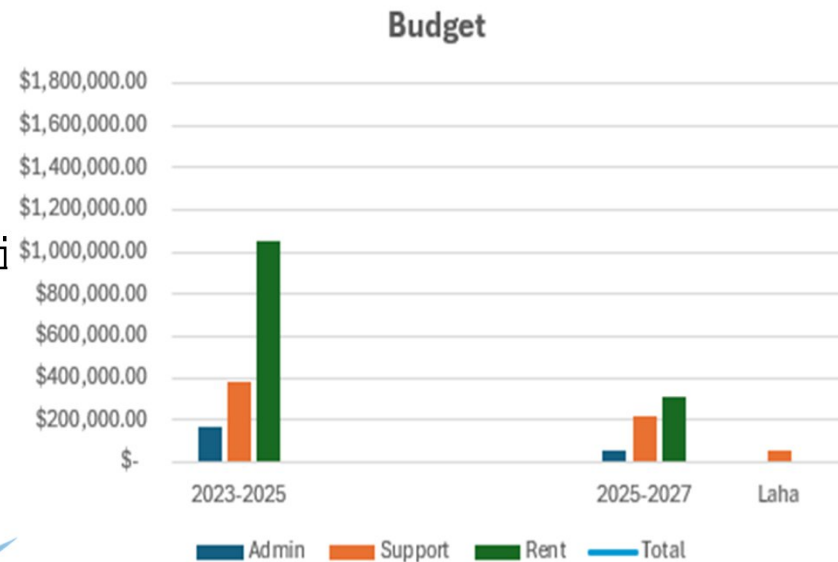
Store Hours:

11am-6pm M-F & 9am- 4pm Sat

8085 Old Carriage Ct. Shakopee, MN 55379

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program

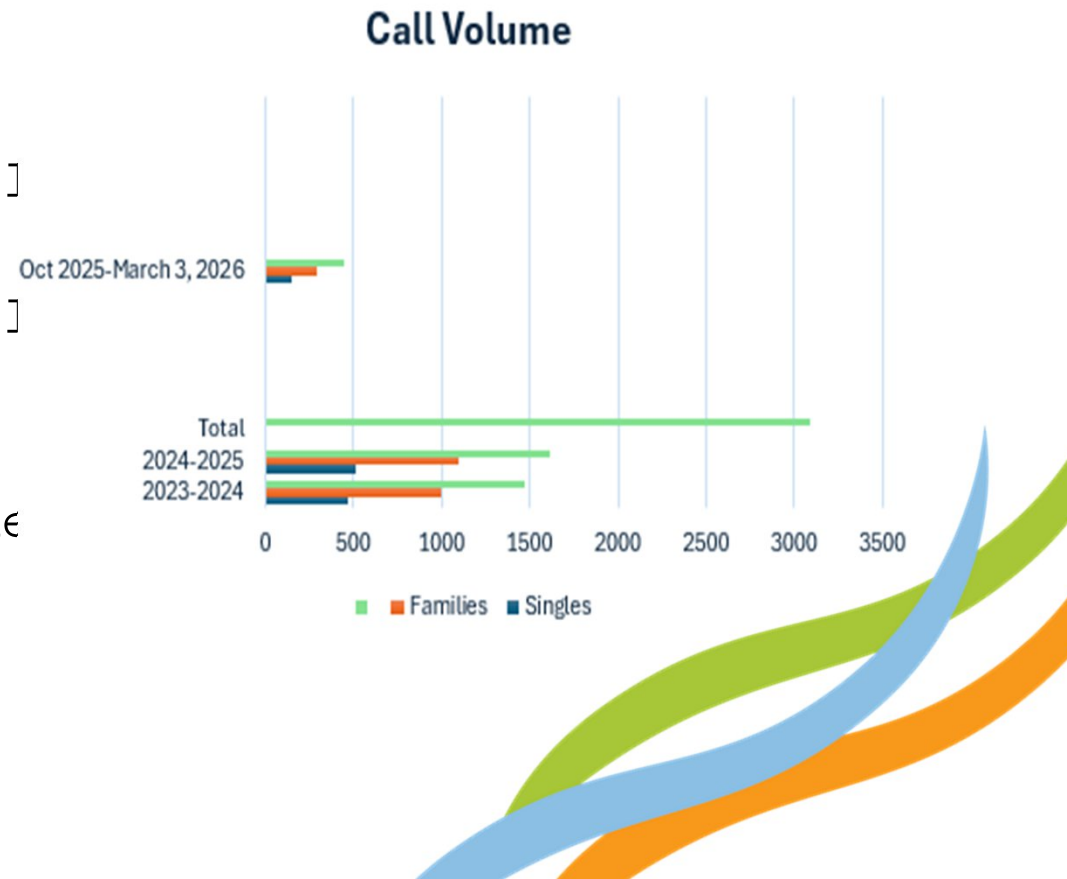
- Purpose to provide crisis management to those who are at risk of losing their housing
 - Rental Assistance
 - Light case management
 - Resource and referral
 - Landlord/Tenant Education
 - \$585,451.00 FHPAP
 - \$50,000.00 LAHA



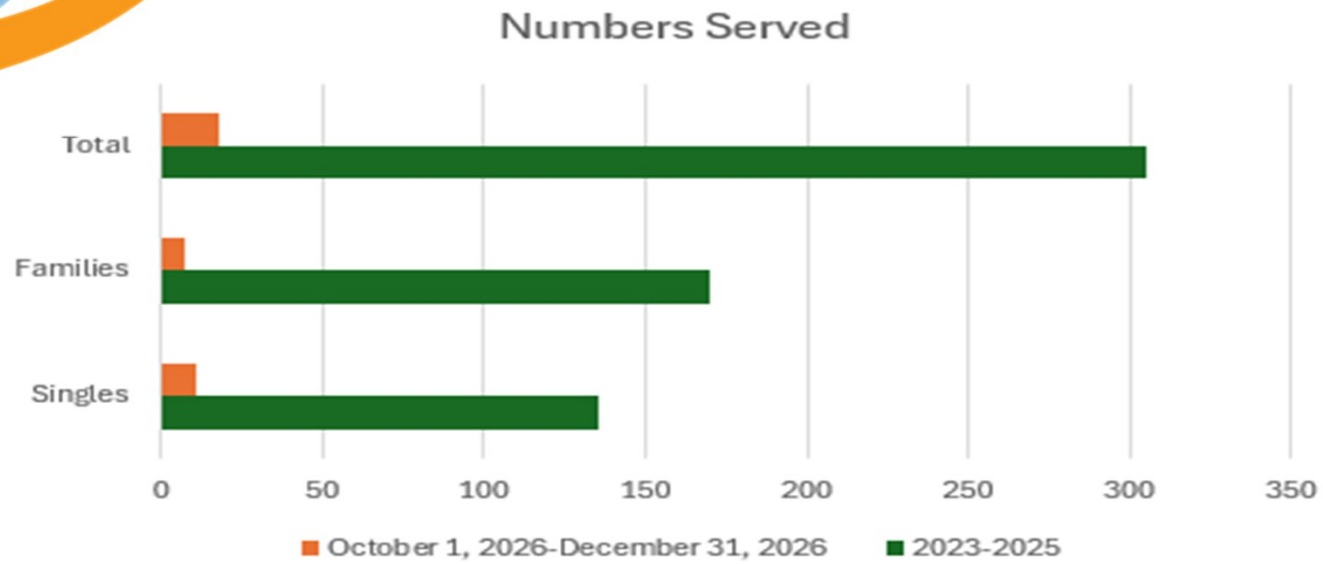
Eligibility and the Call Volume

- Eligibility
 - Dakota Resident
 - Under 200% Poverty Guidel
 - Past Due Rent
 - At-risk of becoming home]

- Since January 1, 2026 there have been 248 calls answered



Numbers Served



Haralson Apartments

- Purpose is to provide support services to individuals who formerly were unhoused and help them maintain the housing.
 - CAP provides support to 16 units in the building
 - All tenants work on goals that are person centered
 - All were long-term homeless and disabled
 - All receive rental assistance to meet their housing costs
- CAP is at the property in Apple Valley 2 days a week.
- Works along side the property manager
- Helps problem solve and connect to resources
- Provides an onsite activity quarterly
- Picks up food from Open Door Pantry in



CAP Housing

CAP owns 11 properties, 44 units

Properties

- 14 - 1-bedrooms
- 20 - 2-bedrooms
- 0 - 3-bedrooms
- 2 - 4-bedrooms
- 8- Single room occupancy units
- 35 of these units in Dakota
- 9 of these units are in Scott

Focused on serving the hardest to house

- Homeless
- High barriers
- Those with vouchers and who have case management.

Meet the tenants where they are at, help them develop positive safe place to focus on their goals.



CAP

IMPACT



Distributed
2.76 million
pounds of food to
74,000 individuals

Educated
277 children
through Head Start
and Early Head
Start



Delivered
100,253 meals
to **853 Seniors**
through Senior Meals on Wheels

Distributed
873 backpacks
to k-12 students as a part
of Backpacks for Success



Assisted
1,281 individuals
through housing
services

Energy assistance provided
to

20,254 individuals



Questions

The Link

Presenters: Tianna Odeen, Housing Division Director, todeen@thelinkmn.org, 612-558-3584

James Lewis, Chief Program Officer, jlewis@thelink.mn.org, 612-598-2308

Program Overview

Mission: The Link works with youth and families to overcome the impacts of poverty and social injustice. The Link's Dakota County Hotel Emergency Shelter program, originally a COVID-response program, provides hotel vouchers to youth and young families experiencing homelessness. As the need for shelter and housing units exceeds available resources, the program helps fill an important gap in services in Dakota County. Youth who are waiting for access to affordable housing units can stay in the hotel emergency shelter and receive case management services until they are able to transition into a housing program. Each night, The Link's Hotel Emergency Shelter Program provides 10 units of shelter to Dakota County youth and families.

Contract(s): Dakota County has **4** contracts with **The Link** for the following service(s):

Service	Service Description	Funding Source(s)	Contract Term Date
Emergency Hotel Shelter Services for Youth	<p>The Link secures a hotel(s) and ensure three meals a day for clients in hotel(s) as well as other vital services for youth ages 18-24 experiencing HUD homelessness in Dakota County. They conduct an assessment and screening of each shelter referral to determine service needs and confirm that individual meets eligibility requirements for shelter program and provides case management services to each shelter resident.</p> <p>They also provide Housing Search Services to all shelter residents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting shelter residents with searching for and securing housing Assisting shelter residents with obtaining available housing resources including financial and rental assistance programs. Facilitating referrals to housing and services needed for ongoing housing stability including Housing Support and Housing Stabilization Services. 	100% funded by County Levy	7/1/2025-6/30/2027

Service	Service Description	Funding Source(s)	Contract Term Date
Emergency Hotel Shelter & Housing Search Services	<p>The Link secures a hotel(s), ensure three meals a day for clients in hotel(s) as well as other vital services. Complete Housing Assessment and connect shelter clients to SMAC Coordinated Entry.</p> <p>They also provide Housing Search Services to residents of the hotel program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance securing housing assistance, if needed (through Coordinated Entry, CDA, etc.). • Assistance on behalf of client to find housing. • Advocacy with landlords and other stakeholders. • Referrals to services needed for ongoing housing stability. 	100% funded by Department of HHSSA	9/1/2023-6/30/2027
Local Homeless Prevention Aid for Youth	<p>The Link works to ensure no child is homeless by keeping families from losing housing and helping those experiencing homelessness find housing. The Link provides outreach and case management services for homeless unaccompanied youth. This work includes, but is not limited to, working with schools and community partners to identify homeless youth, providing case management and connecting youth to supportive services, safety, financial assistance and housing stability.</p>	100% funded by grant allocation for Local Homeless Prevention Aid - MN Department of Revenue.	7/1/2023-6/30/2026
Youth Coordinated Entry Drop-In Services	<p>The Link intakes through the County Housing Resource Line for Youth experiencing homelessness. They Coordinate emergency housing placements, connection to homelessness prevention resources and other problem solving as needed by client and conduct a CE assessment.</p>	100% funded by County Levy	1/1/2026-12/31/2027

Strategic Alignment

The Link’s work supports and aligns with the following County Board strategies:

Thriving people: Dakota County creates access to opportunities, cares for vulnerable people, and fosters community safety, health and well-being.

Oversight

Emergency Hotel Shelter Services for Youth (levy funded): Quarterly reports are required summarizing the following: number of unduplicated individuals in shelter, basic demographics (age, race, gender),

entry date, exit date, length of time in shelter, number and percent of individuals exiting to permanent housing, exit destination for each participant who left shelter and success stories of shelter residents. Invoices are submitted monthly to the County and include specific budget categories and supporting documentation.

Emergency Hotel Shelter & Housing Search Services (CLI Grant): Quarterly reports are required summarizing the following: number of unduplicated individuals in shelter, basic demographics (age, race, gender), entry date, exit date, length of time in shelter, number and percent of individuals exiting to permanent housing, exit destination for each participant who left shelter and success stories of shelter residents. Invoices are submitted monthly to the County and include specific budget categories and supporting documentation.

Local Homeless Prevention Aid – Homeless Families: Prepare reports semi-annually to share activities, number of persons served, demographics and services provided. As part of the semi-annual report, there will be an assessment of how the program impacts people who are currently experiencing homelessness or are at risk of experiencing homelessness as required by Department of Revenue requirements. Provide program information and reports at the homeless prevention and outreach workgroup meeting and Affordable Housing Coalition at least twice a year. Invoices are submitted, at minimum, monthly to the County.

Youth Coordinated Entry Drop-In Services: Quarterly reports are required summarizing the following: number of intake calls, number of turn-aways, number of unduplicated clients, number of Coordinated Entry assessments completed, type of referrals provided, basic demographics (age, race, family status). Invoices are submitted, at a minimum, quarterly and include specific budget categories and any support documentation.

Outcome Measures

Dakota County Emergency Shelter Hotel Outcome Measures:

2025 Calendar Year: The Link's Dakota County Emergency Shelter Hotel Program successfully served 28 youth. Out of the 15 exits, 13 of those were able to have positive and stable exits (83%).

100% of youth within The Link's Dakota County Emergency Shelter Hotel Program were able to be assisted in obtaining basic needs.

Mandates

Mandate Level (Board Decision) – Program Name, Authority for Program (Statute, Resolution, etc.), Program Description

Emergency Hotel Shelter Services for Youth (levy funded): The Board of Commissioners is not mandated to provide or contract for these services.

Emergency Hotel Shelter & Housing Search Services (DHS Grant Funded): The Board of Commissioners is not mandated to provide or contract for these services.

Local Homeless Prevention Aid (Youth): The Board of Commissioners is not mandated to provide or contract for these services.

Youth Coordinated Entry Drop-In Services: The Board of Commissioners is not mandated to provide or contract for these services.

Financials

Total Contracted Payments 2024-2025: \$1,399,427

Service	Contract Budget 2026-2027
Emergency Hotel Shelter Services for Youth (Levy funded):	\$ 68,616
Emergency Hotel Shelter & Housing Search Services (DHS Grant Funded)	\$750,000
Local Homeless Prevention Aid – Homeless Youth (7/1/2023-6/30/2026)	\$ 600,182
Youth Coordinated Entry Drop-In Services	\$102,000



The Link

James Lewis, Chief Program Officer
Tianna Odeen, Housing Division Director
April 21st, 2026



The Link's CORE Programs-Dakota County Funded

Hotel Shelter Program

10 youth per night
Case Management Support
Mental Health Therapy
Employment Support
Connection to Resources
Connection to Housing
Providers

Coordinated Entry

Housing Problem Solving
Housing Needs Assessments
Resource Connection
Shelter Openings
Housing outside of CE
Access to Drop In

Future Independent Pathways

Dakota County School District
Mckinney Vento Students
Case Management Support
Mental Health Therapy
Connection to Resources
Connection to Housing Providers

Hotel youth served:

Contract Year 24-25: 29 youth

Contract Year 25-26: 36 youth

Exits to PSH 2025: 83%

2025 Housing Resource Calls: 157

Assessments completed: 54

Drop in visits 2025: 260

Case Management Services 2025: 364

FIP students served: 47



Questions?



General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5585

Agenda #: 9.1

Meeting Date: 4/21/2026

Adjournment