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TO: Justin Hodge, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

FROM: Gregory Dill,  
County Administrator

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2023

SUBJECT: A resolution to address the eviction crisis and human service provider funding gap

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

It is requested that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approve the use of \$1.5 million of funds previously budgeted within the 2023 and 2024 general fund budgets to address the eviction crisis and human service provider funding gap. It is further requested that the Administrator be authorized to execute contracts and amend budgets necessary to do this work.

**BACKGROUND:**

In the wake of the sunset of the MSHDA's Covid Emergency Rental Assistance program, the Office of Community and Economic Development has sounded the alarm on an immediate and ongoing housing stability and eviction crisis within the County. As of April 4, 2023, there are 195 total families currently homeless or facing immediate eviction, and 83 families who are sheltering in hotels.

In response to the immediate housing crisis, the City of Ann Arbor reallocated \$305,000 of its New Human Services Partnership (NHSP) High Impact Grant funding to address immediate housing stabilization and eviction protection needs for residents of the City.

Concurrently, human service providers within the County, many of whom provide social services to the County's most vulnerable residents, have frequently expressed the funding challenges they face since the end of Coordinated Funding and transition into the New Human Services Partnership funding model. These two challenges are inextricably linked; data suggests that community need is increasing while, due to several factors while system sector funding is not.

On December 7, 2022 through Resolution 2022-216 the Board of Commissioners adopted the County's 2023-2027 Quadrennial Budget. This budget included an adjustment which replaced the planned funding source of a \$1.5 million portion of government services for the County's Information Technology and Facilities functions in each of 2023 and 2024 from County general funds to ARPA funds obligated by the county as "Lost Revenues". This replacement of funding was done so as to make the \$1.5 million in general fund support previously needed to for these functions available to support other County Priorities for each of these two years.

**DISCUSSION:**

This proposal would authorize the Administrator to expend these funds for the following uses:

**Human Services Bridge Funding: \$ \$748,344 per year**

It is proposed that the County would enter into two-year service contracts with the organizations and in the amounts listed below. These organizations are those which were previously funded through Coordinated Funding, which received contract extensions from the County, which have not been and are unlikely to be awarded funding through the New Human Services Partnership program or other County sources. The exception to this is the PATH/PORT program of WCCMH. CMH developed budgets which were able to sustain the program using other funding sources and thus this allocation is not needed. Otherwise, the proposed amounts are 100% of the last contracts executed between these organizations and the County for these services.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>2023 Funding Amount</b>	<b>2024 Funding Amount</b>
Aid in Milan	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
Alpha House/IHN	\$107,250.00	\$107,250.00
Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels	\$26,674.00	\$26,674.00
Ann Arbor YMCA - The Collaborative – Ypsilanti YMCA Early Childhood Development Center	\$97,500.00	\$97,500.00
Growing Hope	\$17,754.00	\$17,754.00
Housing Access for Washtenaw County (via OCED)	\$105,000.00	\$105,000.00
Mentor2Youth	\$13,600.00	\$13,600.00
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living - Social Connectivity	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Peace Neighborhood Center	\$33,750.00	\$33,750.00
Safehouse	\$93,972.00	\$93,972.00
Unified	\$31,092.00	\$31,092.00
Washtenaw Community College Foundation - The Parkridge Youth Program (PYP)	\$66,588.00	\$66,588.00
Washtenaw ISD Early Head Start	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
Washtenaw Literacy	\$16,164.00	\$16,164.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$748,344.00</b>	<b>\$748,344.00</b>

**Eviction Prevention Programming: \$700,000 per year**

Funding would be used to provide rental assistance, move-in assistance, and extended emergency sheltering. Funds would be administered for these purposes through the Office of Community and Economic Development.

**Administrative Support: \$51,656, remainder each year**

The remaining funding would be used to support the administrative costs within the Office of Community and Economic Development of implementing and administering this program.

This proposal would help address multiple priorities of the County and community. First, it preserves the funding allocated to support the New Human Services Partnership High Impact Grant program while addressing the funding needs of the County’s Human Services partner organizations. This program was designed following the end of Coordinated Funding to address both the exit of former funding partners and to support innovation within organizations working to identify and address the root causes of racism, poverty, and trauma within the County.

Second, this proposal would provide bridge funding to human service providers who have continued to express their funding needs to the County. The County was one of five funders within the Coordinated Funding group, and while the County has continued to provide support following the end of coordinated funding to many organizations, it has been unable to fully replace all system funding and has replaced the Coordinated Funding program with the New Human Services Partnership program, which involves similar organizations, but uses different programs and goals. This bridge funding would provide two years of stability to these organizations which will allow for the County's quadrennial budget process to occur, and for these organizations to appropriately prepare.

Finally, this proposal would provide immediately accessible and flexible funds to support the housing crisis. The Board of Commissioners recently approved the submission of a \$4.5 million dollar grant application to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME-ARP program. These funds are able to be used to address this same issue but have more prescriptions on their use and are not immediately available. In concern, these two funding sources will allow for both the quick and thorough response to these needs. The final proposal for the use of the HOME-ARP funds will be returned to the Board of Commissioners for consideration in late summer.

**OPPORTUNITY INDEX:**

The services provided through this action would be available to all residents of Washtenaw County.

**IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:**

None.

**IMPACT ON BUDGET:**

None. This action would be budget neutral in that the funds proposed to support these efforts were budgeted within the 2023-2027 Quadrennial Budget.

**IMPACT ON FACILITIES:**

None.

**IMPACT ON TECHNOLOGY**

None.

**IMPACT ON EQUITY:**

This action is intended to improve the equitable delivery of services by the County. It proposes to allocate county resources to provide critical services to the most vulnerable populations within the County. Additionally, it preserves the New Human Services Partnership funding model, which is designed explicitly to address racism, poverty, and trauma through all processes and outcomes.

**IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:**

None.

**IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:**

The Office of Community and Economic Development will be responsible for administering the contracts and programs authorized through this action. The PATH/PORT program of Washtenaw County Community Mental Health is proposed to receive funding through this action.

**CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:**

The requested Board action conforms with all applicable County policies.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Resolution