

**GOODHUE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (GCHHS)**



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Requested Board Date:	October 15, 2024	Staff Lead:	Kris Johnson
Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Attachments:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Action Requested:	Approval to use SCHA community investment funds on Rapid Re-Housing Program.		

BACKGROUND:

Safe and stable housing is one of the most consequential social determinants of health. Housing is a complex issue that refers to several elements across the housing continuum, from being truly unhoused and living “on the street,” to living in a transitional and temporary housing options, to the cost burden of rent that consumes over 30% of person’s income.



According to the Goodhue County 2020 Housing Study, the overwhelming community/system barrier for homeless households or at-risk of becoming homeless is the lack of housing that is affordable, particularly to households with very low incomes. A single emergency or medical issue can create homelessness. The need for affordable housing is considered a national crisis and households that may already have one or more personal barriers (i.e. mental health, chronic health situation, physical disability) are at even greater risk for becoming homeless.

Housing and Homes was identified as the #2 issue on the 2022 Community Needs Assessment.

To address the needs of the community, it is important for a community to have adequate housing options and support across the continuum. In Goodhue County there are multiple organizations that are working to address those needs across the continuum. The focus of this proposal is on the left side of the continuum to support people who are homeless or unstably housed.

South Country Health Alliance funding opportunity

Due to SCHA’s strong performance and solid reserves, the SCHA board approved funding for community reinvestment grants. Goodhue County’s allocation is \$571,991. SCHA designated funds to repay county

investments or contributions to county-based purchasing plan for prevention, early intervention, or health care programs, services or activities.

GCHHS proposes that the SCHA funds be utilized to create, support, and enhance Rapid Rehousing Programs in Goodhue County. Rapid Rehousing is an evidence-based intervention that has been demonstrated to be effective in getting people into permanent housing and keeping them there. Rapid Rehousing has been effective for people who experience barriers such as very limited income. It has been shown to reduce the length of time that people are homeless, as compared to other interventions such as shelter or transitional housing, and it is less expensive to implement than those options. [Rapid Re-Housing - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)



Housing Identification



Move-in and rent assistance



RRH case management and services

- Housing Identification:** In order to successfully implement this aspect of the model, GCHHS Outreach workers to focus landlord recruitment. If GCHHS receives the next round of CLI funding for a Housing Resource Specialist, the HRS would also focus on landlord recruitment. Three Rivers CAC already implements a Rapid Re-Housing program with federal HUD (Housing and Urban Development) funds. Randi Callahan, Director of Community Supports at Three Rivers Community Action, stated that there is extensive need for this program beyond what they can provide, so Three Rivers looks forward to collaborating with GCHHS.
- Move-in and rent assistance:** The second key component is move-in and rent assistance to reduce barriers to housing. The National Alliance to End Homelessness offers a toolkit that guidance about phasing in move-in and rent assistance. Our plan includes allocations of flex funds to local partners who support people to obtain housing.
- Rapid Re-Housing case management and services:** The third component will be offered by case managers who are already employed at GCHHS—particularly the Outreach Workers in the Adult Protection Unit or Parent Support Outreach Program Workers. These workers already spend a large amount of their time helping clients obtain and maintain stable housing, so this program will be a minimal adjustment to the work they are already doing.

Budget

	TOTAL	2025	2026	2027
Social Worker (Outreach)	166,502.90	51,791.01	55,416.38	59,295.52
Social Serv Supervisor	47,503.67	14,598.80	15,620.71	16,714.16
Data Specialist	-	-	-	-
Case Aide	-	-	-	-
Fiscal Officer	-	-	-	-
Total	214,006.57	66,389.80	71,037.09	76,009.68
(Less Reimbursements of 15%)	32,015.58			
Total S/F for Reinvestment \$'s	181,991.00			
		2025	2026	2027
Move In/Rental Assistance GCHHS	280,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	80,000.00
Flex Funds-Hope Coalition	30,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Flex Funds-Three Rivers	30,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Flex Funds-Hispanic Outreach	30,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Risk Mitigation	20,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
Total	390,000.00	140,000.00	140,000.00	110,000.00
Grand Total	571,991.00			
Remaining	0.00			

Move in/rental assistance

Funds that will be used to support individuals and families to obtain housing. Funds can be used for down payments, damage deposits, rent support (average time 4-6 months), basic furnishing needs as supported by housing team.

Flex funds

Community partners will be invited to make referrals to the Rapid Re-Housing program. In addition, the identified community partners also offer a variety of concrete supports to clients to support housing and prevent eviction, which is another important program that reduces homelessness. The identified community partners will be offered \$10,000/year for each program year for flex funds.

Risk Mitigation

Risk mitigation offers landlords incentives and support to lease to higher risk renters, including those who have previous evictions or criminal backgrounds.

Community Living Infrastructure grant

On a separate but related note, GCHHS will be repurposing the remaining funds in the Community Living Infrastructure Grant to determine future housing needs.

In 2021, GCHHS obtained the Minnesota Department of Human Services Community Living Infrastructure grant to hire a Housing Resource Specialist. The purpose of the CLI grant is to address housing needs for people who have disabling conditions that may contribute to barriers to housing stability.

GCHHS hired a Housing Resource Specialist who worked for approximately 2 years on several projects to address basic housing needs for people who have housing barriers. This person left their position in November 2023. This provisional position was posted three times, and the agency was unable to hire someone for the position.

With the remaining \$136,607 funds that must be spent by June 2025, GCHHS has obtained permission from DHS to amend the budget to hire a consultant to analyze the current services available across the Goodhue County housing continuum. This analysis will be complete by March 2025 and will be presented to the board in April 2025. The results of this analysis will be used to determine how GCHHS will focus future efforts on addressing housing needs.

RECOMMENDATION: GCHHS Department recommends approval as requested.