

American Rescue Plan (ARP) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) Request Form

Please complete this form in accordance with the process instructions.

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Title of Request: Federal Recovery Funds for Shelter

Date: 8/23/2021 **Request Amount:** \$ 10,000,000

Expenditure Time Period: 9/15/2021 to 6/30/2023

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

Among people who contract COVID-19, people experiencing homelessness residing in shelters are four and a half times more likely to end up hospitalized and three times more likely to require intensive care. People living outside are nine times more likely to be hospitalized and eight times more likely to require intensive care. These disparities are the results of the high prevalence of underlying health conditions and vulnerability, coupled with living in settings that heighten the risks of exposure and make prevention or mitigation efforts difficult or impossible. Minnesota faces a dual challenge: responding immediately to high-risk congregate settings and better equipping those settings for short and longer-term safe operations in the midst of infectious diseases (in the next few months and years). The At Risk Populations work group, the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), and DHS propose a two-part allocation of Fiscal Recovery Funds to address these needs.

Creation of a homeless shelter emergency response team at DHS to provide the overall leadership for Minnesota's homeless shelter COVID-19 response. Specific guidance for emergency response will take place through an identified inter-disciplinary and organizationally flexible team including staff from the ICH, MDH, DPS, MN Housing and DHS. Activities include communication, coordination and mobilization of resources to address mitigation, response, and recovery.

Approximately \$10 million of the total request would cover targeted, immediate response activities to mitigate or prevent outbreaks in congregate settings serving people experiencing homelessness, including survivors of domestic violence. These funds will cover additional staffing and hazard pay to keep shelters operating with the needed complement of personnel (who may need to be replaced or supplemented as staff contract COVID or must quarantine); room leasing costs to establish additional shelter capacity to de-concentrate shelters or create protective or isolation options for people experiencing homelessness (such as hotel rooms where people exposed, at high risk, or who have tested positive can reside), and other costs for supplies needed to sustain congregate shelter operations (e.g., air filtration, PPE, or food for people residing in isolation space). Once approved, these funds would be deployed through a rapid request process initiated by organizations operating congregate shelters or as directed by the Department of Health. All services and recipients would be eligible through the Emergency Services Program (ESP) MS 256E.36. Grantees would be permitted to use up to 1 percent of grant funding for administrative costs.

Additional funding will be needed for the recovery phase for shelter modifications for traffic flow especially in high-traffic areas, or creating of new shelter space that has been designed to operate effectively for staff and guests in the context of an infectious disease. This request is being targeted to the immediate, crisis needs congregate shelter settings are faced with today.

Jodi Harpstead

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Date: 2021.08.25 15:45:53 -05'00'

Department Head Signature

Date