

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

Please complete this form in accordance with the process instructions.

**Agency/Point of Contact:** Andrea Simonett, DHS, andrea.simonett@state.mn.us, 612-275-6569

**Title of Request:** Federal Recovery Funds for Shelter

**Date:** 8/23/2021 **Request Amount:** \$ 15,000,000

**Expenditure Time Period:** 10/15/2021 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 prevalence of underlying health conditions, coupled with a living setting that heightens the of exposure and makes prevention or mitigation efforts difficult.

Minnesota faces a dual challenge: responding immediately to high-risk congregate settings and better equipping those settings for short and longer-term safe operations. This request represents the second proposal for State Fiscal Recovery Funds by the At-Risk Populations work group, the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), and DHS to address these needs. A previous request focused on targeted activities to mitigate or respond to outbreaks in congregate settings serving people experiencing homelessness.

This request is for funds for programs, settings and services eligible under the Emergency Services Program (ESP) to help them operate safely over the long-term while preventing transmission of COVID-19. These awards will prioritize investments that help congregate shelter settings prevent transmission of infectious diseases, including physical modifications to spaces to reduce transmission risks or increase physical separation of shelter guests, changes to ventilation or air filtration systems, modifications for traffic flow especially in high-traffic areas, or creation/acquisition of new shelter space that has been designed to operate effectively in the context of an infectious disease. Demand for these resources will significantly exceed this request; as such, we will prioritize this funding for acquisition and renovation projects that minimize COVID risks in congregate settings and can be completed most quickly. Additional funding requests (including proposals for legislative consideration) are anticipated to meet emerging and intermediate-term needs for shelters as they continue to respond and recover from the pandemic. DHS will follow recommendations from the MMB COVID Response Accountability Office to comply with requirements for spending federal Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) allocated to states as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. Previous funding the Department received through the Coronavirus Relief Fund has not been subject to any audit findings.

Without these investments, it is likely that Minnesota's shelter system will remain in a cycle of continuous crisis as settings contend with outbreaks of current or future infectious diseases that compromise their ability to operate effectively. To the greatest practical extent possible, these investments will be structured to leverage investments from other levels of government. All services and recipients would be eligible per the Emergency Services Program (MS 256E.36).

**Jodi Harpstead**

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Date: 2021.09.14 09:25:58 -05'00'

Department Head Signature

Date