

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE CITY OF KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE
AND
BRANCH HOUSE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER
“BRANCH HOUSE”

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into as of this 1st day of July, 2025, by and between the City of Kingsport, hereinafter called "CITY", and the Branch House Family Justice Center, hereinafter called "BRANCH HOUSE".

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, BRANCH HOUSE is a not-for-profit agency as defined by Tennessee Code Annotated §§6-54-111 and 48-51-101 et seq., and is eligible to receive funds for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, CITY is authorized by Tennessee Code Annotated §6-54-111 et seq. to provide financial assistance to nonprofit organizations and not-for-profit corporations; and

WHEREAS, BRANCH HOUSE will receive financial assistance from the CITY; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to set forth the terms and conditions with respect to the use of funds to be provided.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, the parties agree as follows:

1. **PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT.** The purpose of this Agreement is to assist BRANCH HOUSE with operational expenses and to state the terms and conditions upon which financial assistance will be provided by CITY and the manner in which the project will be carried out by BRANCH HOUSE.
2. **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT.**

BRANCH HOUSE agrees to coordinate free services for survivors and provides assistance for meeting immediate and long-term needs, including medical and legal assistance. On-site services include representatives from local agencies that have been specially trained to provide assistance to people who have experienced domestic or sexual violence.
3. **MAXIMUM PAYMENT.** It is expressly understood and agreed that the total amount to

be paid by CITY to BRANCH HOUSE under this Agreement will not exceed TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS and NO/100 (\$25,000).

4. **REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT.** BRANCH HOUSE will bill CITY for payment of funds after July 1, 2025, using forms and procedures specified by CITY.
5. **REIMBURSEMENT BY CITY.** CITY will review all billing submitted, however, reimbursement of any cost, not to exceed the amount as shown in paragraph 3, will not constitute a final determination by CITY of the allowability of such costs and will not constitute a waiver of any violation of the terms of the Agreement.
6. **AUDITS.** BRANCH HOUSE prior to receiving funds pursuant to this Agreement it must file with the city clerk a copy of an annual report of its business affairs and transactions that includes, but is not limited to:
 - (A) Either a copy of the entity's most recently completed annual audit or an annual report detailing all receipts and expenditures in a form prescribed by the comptroller of the treasury and prepared and certified by the chief financial officer of such nonprofit organization;
 - (B) A description of the program that serves the residents of the municipality; and
 - (C) The proposed use of the municipal assistance.
 - (D) A listing of revenue sources detailing what percent of the total operating budget they cover

The report filed pursuant hereto shall be open for public inspection during regular business hours of the city clerk's office. Financial reports shall be available to fiscal officers of the CITY and shall be subject to audit under T.C.A. § 6-56-105. BRANCH HOUSE will permit CITY or its representatives to inspect all work, materials, payrolls, and other records with regard to the project, and to audit the books, records, and accounts of BRANCH HOUSE with regard to the project. Such records will be retained for this purpose for a period of not less than three years.

7. **ACCOUNTING, RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.** BRANCH HOUSE will establish and maintain an accounting, record-keeping and reporting system consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and no less than those recommended in the Accounting Manual for Recipients of Grant Funds in Tennessee, published by the Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee. BRANCH HOUSE further agrees to submit to CITY a copy of its most recent audited report at the same time said report is submitted to the State government.
8. **CHANGES.** Any changes in this Agreement will require a written amendment executed by all parties hereto.

9. **ASSIGNMENT AND SUBLETTING.** BRANCH HOUSE will not assign any rights to funds, except as set forth herein, without prior written authorization from CITY.
10. **TERMINATION.** This Agreement may be terminated by either party by giving written notice to the other at least 30 days before the effective date of such termination. In the event of such termination, BRANCH HOUSE will be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any eligible operating expenses paid or incurred as of the termination date, but in no event will this amount exceed TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS and NO/100 (\$25,000).
11. **CHANGED CONDITIONS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE.** BRANCH HOUSE will immediately notify CITY of any change in conditions or of any other event which may significantly affect its ability to perform the Project in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
12. **ASSURANCES.** BRANCH HOUSE hereby assures CITY that BRANCH HOUSE is legally entitled to funds from CITY.
13. **OPERATING INFORMATION.** BRANCH HOUSE will provide any relevant information requested by CITY concerning BRANCH HOUSE's program, including, but not limited to, contracts for third party financial arrangements, annual financial statements and audit reports, schedules and fees.
14. **PROJECT TERM.** CITY and BRANCH HOUSE have previously agreed that the project term for this contract is from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Accordingly, funds allocated by CITY to BRANCH HOUSE can be used to reimburse BRANCH HOUSE for eligible project expenses beginning on July 1, 2025. In no event will CITY participate in project expenses incurred after June 30, 2026.
15. **REPORTING.** BRANCH HOUSE will submit to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen a quarterly report setting out how funds allocated by CITY to BRANCH HOUSE assist in carrying out the purpose of the project as described under the terms of this Agreement. The report shall be transmitted to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.
16. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** BRANCH HOUSE'S relationship with CITY is that of an independent contractor and nothing in this Agreement should be construed to create a partnership, joint venture or employer-employee relationship. BRANCH HOUSE is not the agent of the CITY and is not authorized to make any representation, contract or commitment on behalf of CITY. Neither BRANCH HOUSE nor its employees will, under any circumstances, be considered servants, agents, partners or a joint venture of CITY, and

CITY will at no time be legally responsible for any negligence or other wrong doing by BRANCH HOUSE, or it employees or agents.

17. INDEMNIFICATION FOR DAMAGES, TAXES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

BRANCH HOUSE will indemnify, defend, and hold harmless CITY, including without limitation, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers from and against:

A. Any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, defense costs, or liability of any kind or nature which CITY may sustain or incur or which may be imposed upon it for injury to or death of persons, or damage to property as a result of, arising out of, or in any manner connected with BRANCH HOUSE'S performance under the terms of this Agreement, excepting any liability arising out of the sole negligence of the CITY. Such indemnification includes any damage to the person(s), or property(ies) of BRANCH HOUSE and third persons.

B. Any and all Federal, State and Local taxes, charges, fees, or contributions required to be paid with respect to BRANCH HOUSE and its officers, employees and agents engaged in the performance of this Agreement (including, without limitation, unemployment insurance, social security and payroll tax withholding).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the signatures of the parties hereto as of the date and year first written in duplicate original form.

BRANCH HOUSE

DEB RICHMOND
Executive Director

CITY OF KINGSPORT

PAUL W. MONTGOMERY
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Recorder

RODNEY B. ROWLETT, III
City Attorney