

MEMORANDUM

To: Phillip Hill, City Administrator of the City of Lake Forest Park
From: Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Director of Sub-Regional Planning and Equitable Engagement
CC: Nigel Herbig, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager; Nawiishtunmi Nightgun, Deputy Chief Program Officer
Subject: Funding Recommendations for Lake Forest Park City Council
Date: 1/26/2022

I. Summary & Recommendation

This memo intends to provide the Lake Forest Park City Council with funding recommendations on how this new investment into homelessness response can most effectively be utilized across existing programming.

II. Background

The City of Lake Forest Park is considering signing on to an Agreement for Homeless Services between the City, KCRHA, and the cities of Shoreline, Kenmore, Bothell and Woodinville, to aggregate homelessness services funds across North King County. Cities which already fund homelessness services will see their current allocations continued during the 2023/2024 biennium. In the past the City of Lake Forest Park has not allocated funds towards homelessness services and wishes to have the opportunity to allocate these new funds to providers of their choice in North King County.

The City of Lake Forest Park's vote on 12/8 was conditional with the approval of an MOU memorializing a commitment from KCRHA to bring to the City potential options for how their contributions to the Agreement could be allocated for the 2024/2025 biennium.

This memo provides preliminary recommendations in accordance with the MOU as well as to support deliberations from the Lake Forest Park City Council.

III. Options

The following funding options are informed by KCRHA's assessment of services, and work in North King County:

Option 1: Flexible Severe Weather Response

Looking at weather patterns solely in the 13 months of KCRHA's operations and oversight of the homelessness response system, the agency has been in an activated response posture over 50 days to support people experiencing homelessness in severe heat, smoke, cold and snow events.

For North King County, KCRHA supported the stand up in the 2020/2021 snow event of an additional severe weather shelter to serve North King County residents while partnering with the existing severe weather shelter in Shoreline (managed by NUHSA volunteers). In the summer 2021 heat event, KCRHA was monitoring regional response and resource gaps related to safety in prolonged heat. When hearing from North King County community

members with lived experience about the need for more cooling options to serve North King County, KCRHA stood up a cooling canopy in the sub-region staffed by Urban League to distribute cooling supplies and get individuals connected to services. Per KCRHA's utilization tracking throughout the course of the event, 390 individuals were served out of this site over the course of 4 days in operation.

The need for sustainable severe weather response serving North King County has been identified as a need by KCRHA staff as well as by the North King County Coalition on Homelessness.

Flexible funding for severe weather response could allow KCRHA to fund provider agencies to be able to support in the following ways:

- Staffing a severe weather shelter or cooling canopy
- Staffing support to place individuals into hotel rooms
- Additional outreach supplies

Option 2: Homeless Program Service Families with Children or Youth and Young Adults

In the draft KCRHA Five Year Plan, goal areas 5 and 6 are focused on addressing family homelessness and youth and young adult homelessness respectively. To be in accordance with the goals of the draft Five Year Plan, the funding could be allocated to programs serving these sub-populations within North King County. According to the [KCRHA Regional Services Database](#), there is 1 program located within North King County that serves young adults (Friends of Youth), two emergency shelter programs that support families with children (Hopelink and Mary's Place), a transitional housing program that supports families (Vision House), and then four additional sheltering and housing options that have the ability to accept families (Camp United We Stand, Compass Housing Alliance, VA Puget Sound Healthcare).

Option 3: Emergency Shelter Operations

There is currently one enhanced emergency shelter serving single adults located within North King County which is the Oaks program supported by Lake City Partners. As a newer program, only in operation for about 2 years, the team has identified that this funding could be utilized in a positive way to support operations and capacity building.

Option 4: Outreach Support

Outreach is a critical part of homelessness response. Not only does it allow for us to reach currently unsheltered individuals who may not be connected to services, but it also allows us to develop a deeper understanding of the geographic and sub-regional nature of homelessness as outreach providers will input information into our Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) which tracks client-level data and information and is overseen by the Community Impact division at KCRHA.

Currently in North King County, there is limited outreach serving the area. There is family outreach from Mary's Place, vehicle outreach from The Salvation Army - Street Level Program, and one single adult outreach staff person from Lake City Partners supporting part of North King County. Some cities are exploring piloting to fund an additional outreach position to support this effort, additional funding from the City paired with some of the other investments from cities could secure an additional outreach worker position.



IV. Recommendation

While KCRHA affirms that each of these aforementioned options would support the efforts to address homelessness in North King County, *we recommend to the Lake Forest Park City Council to consider allocating the funding to severe weather response.*

DRAFT