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**To:** Phillip Hill, Lake Forest Park City Administrator;

**From:** Abby Anderson, Planning Coordinator

**CC:** Kelly Kinnison, CEO of KCRHA; Irene Agustin, Chief Program Officer; James Rouse, Chief Financial Officer; Nigel Herbig, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager; Lisa Edge, Acting Chief of External Affairs; Monica Gross, Director of Planning & Special Projects

**Subject:** 2025 Funding Recommendations for Lake Forest Park

**Date:** October 15, 2024

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### I. Summary & Recommendation

This memo provides 2025 homelessness response investment recommendations for consideration of the Lake Forest Park City Council. [The King County Regional Homelessness Authority recommends an investment of \\$16,834.32 from Lake Forest Park for the North King County severe weather shelter.](#)

### II. Background

In 2023, the City of Lake Forest Park entered an Agreement for Homeless Services with KCRHA and the neighboring jurisdictions of Shoreline, Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville to aggregate homelessness service funds across North King County. This agreement allows KCRHA to administer the contracts and associated funding for homelessness services from the five North King County cities. The agreement also outlines new investments from the cities for a North King County severe weather shelter. Lake Forest Park, having no pre-existing homelessness services contracts and after deliberation from the city council, agreed to provide funds for the severe weather shelter.

This memo provides preliminary recommendations in accordance with the MOU as well as to support deliberations from the Lake Forest Park City Council on investment amounts toward severe weather services through KCRHA.

### III. Options

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

**a. Option 1: Continuing NKC Severe Weather Response**

Many activities outlined in the KCRHA Five-Year Plan focus on improving the severe weather response across King County. The Sub-Regional Implementation Plan for North King County includes some of these activities, emphasizing the importance of a robust severe weather response. During the 2023-2024 Winter season, the North King County severe weather shelter was staffed by Urban League and hosted at St. Dunstan's United Methodist Church. With a light winter season for the Northwest, the shelter only activated 15 nights, but was able to serve 155 guests, provide 310 meals, provided 14 transportation support rides to shelter, and provided move-in assistance for 2 individuals. While this shelter operated prior to the winter of 2023-2024, the past winter season was the first time the shelter had professional and paid staffing, as well as KCRHA coordination support.

The Urban League also staffed cooling canopies during periods of extreme heat. In the summer of 2021, KCRHA stood up a cooling canopy in Shoreline for the first time. The canopy was able to serve over 390 individuals over the course of 4 days. The severe weather funding for the NKC Shelter allowed Urban League to continue the cooling canopies, in addition to outreach, during the summer of 2024.

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.

This 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 during the most extreme conditions; and
- Additional outreach supplies

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



Several initiatives in the KCRHA Five-Year Plan 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. There is currently one program located within North King County that serves young adults (Friends of Youth), one emergency shelter program that supports families with children (Hopelink), a transitional housing program that supports families (Vision House). Additionally, Mary's Place provides outreach across King County, including in North King, for families experiencing homelessness. Providing additional funds to these programs may increase their ability to serve families and youth and young adults in the area.

**c. 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 the only enhanced shelter program in the area, additional funding could be utilized in a positive way to support operations and capacity building.

**d. 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 increasing funding to support and expand this effort. Additional funding from Lake Forest Park, paired with increased investments from other cities could expand the program significantly.

**IV. Recommendations**



While KCRHA affirms that each of the aforementioned options would support the efforts to address homelessness in North King County, *we recommend the Lake Forest Park City Council continue their investment in the Severe Weather Response.*

### **IX. Next Steps**

KCRHA will present to the City of Lake Forest Park on October 24, 2024, to provide an update on the landscape of homelessness in North King County and the North King County Inter-Local Agreement. During the city budget process, the city council shall review these options, finalize their funding decision, and report to KCRHA with the approved investment decision, including the amount and program(s) funded.

