



TO: Mayor Linda Gorton
Urban County Council

FROM: Theresa Reynolds, Director, Grants and Special Programs

CC: Charlie Lanter, Commissioner, Housing Advocacy and Community Development

DATE: May 31, 2022

SUBJECT: Transition in Place Permanent Supportive Housing Program - ARPA

Request:

Request Council authorization to execute an ARPA subrecipient agreement with Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, pursuant to RFP 16-2022, to provide a low-barrier scattered-site permanent housing transition-in-place (TIP) program. This program includes acting as an emergency shelter to rapidly and directly move households into a permanent residence, provide intensive case management, a large variety of supportive services for all household members and their pets, and the ability to transfer lease at a cost not to exceed \$1,000,000.00.

Why are you requesting?

Department needs this action completed because: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the homelessness response system needs to develop more effective and efficient programs to move individuals directly into permanent housing from a homelessness occurrence, without the development of additional congregate living spaces or temporary emergency shelters.

Lexington-Fayette County has extremely limited options for individuals experiencing homelessness with their pets. The people themselves have access to emergency and short-term shelter through a number of local resources. Lexington Humane Society and Animal Care and Control work with social services agencies to provide short-term shelter for the pets of individuals facing eviction or homelessness. But Lexington does not have emergency shelter options for people and their pets experiencing homelessness together.

National estimates of the prevalence of pet ownership among individuals experiencing homelessness have ranged from 5 - 25%. In some cases, people feel they have no choice but to relinquish their pets to the local shelter. Lexington Humane Society reports that in FY 2020, 38



animals were surrendered to them because of owner homelessness (4 dogs, 34 cats) and in FY 2021, 21 pets were surrendered (6 dogs, 13 cats, 2 birds).

The pandemic exacerbated these challenges as it places more people at risk of eviction and homelessness, and more stress on service providers who may face increased demand with fewer resources. The pandemic also has increased recognition of the need to treat people and their pets as an inseparable family unit. Because this emphasis on co-sheltering people and pets is relatively new, and co-sheltering facilities are still limited in many parts of the country, utilizing a transition-in-place permanent housing model will allow Lexington to be on the cutting edge of this shift to a more humane policy. Implementation and outcome data collected in this project will advance the state of knowledge and contribute to improved services in many communities.

The CoC believes that in addition to serving the clearly underserved population of individuals with their pets experiencing homelessness in Lexington, coordinating goals and strategies centered on racial equity will strengthen local actions and potentially deepen the impact of the local strategic plan to prevent and effectively end homelessness.

Funding award has been approved by the LFUCG Homelessness Intervention and Prevention Board's Program Performance and Evaluation Committee.

What is the cost in this budget year and future budget years?

The cost for this FY23 is: \$1,000,000.00

The cost for future FY24 is: \$0

Are the funds budgeted?

The funds are budgeted.

Account number: 3230-155003-0001-78112

File Number: 545-22

Director/Commissioner: Theresa Reynolds/Charlie Lanter

