

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: 10/13/2023
FROM: Winnebago County Executive's Office
RE: Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Inc acquiring additional residential space in the amount of up to \$1,000,000.

General Description:

Proposal for Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services Request for \$1 million as part of a larger \$6.3 million initiative to acquire the building at 240 Algoma Blvd for use as emergency shelter capacity, transitional housing, and provide space for expanded community partnerships, utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Strategy and Outcomes Commission.

Action Requested:

Direction to draft a resolution releasing a single grant issued to Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services to aid in purchasing expanded housing facilities.

Procedural Steps:

Committee of Jurisdiction: ARPA Strategy & Outcomes Commission Meeting date: 10/20/2023

Background:

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services mission is to, "Empower individuals and families through education, safety and support, and lead the community to reduce the incidents and the effects of domestic abuse and dating violence." Since being established in 1984, Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services has educated the community on the dynamics of abuse and fought against domestic violence, by providing resource and a safe space for individuals and families to escape dangerous relationships and environments.

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services currently has one bedroom that sleeps 7 and two that sleep 5; the other seven are limited to 2-4 individuals. This limits the number of large families that can have in shelter at once.

- Only 3 of the 10 bedrooms are ADA accessible, which limits the number of disabled, older, and pregnant survivors the organization can accept.
- Families are provided their own room, while single adults of the same gender may share a room. While all bedrooms have their own bathroom, guests share kitchen, living room, and play spaces. Communal living often results in tension among residents during an already difficult time.
- In a 2019 survey, 50% of survivors said they would not consider shelter if they could not take their pet with them (<https://urinc.org/palsreport/>). The organization cannot accommodate pets due to their current communal living structure, so several survivors each year choose not to come because they don't want to leave their pet with the abuser. The organization believes even more never call in the first place, knowing they don't accept pets.

The Beach Building addresses all of the organization's current facility limitations. The 3-story, 36,000 sq. ft., fully ADA compliant Beach Building will become Christine Ann's new home in fall 2024.

- First-floor renovations will create a waiting room & reception desk, staff & community partner

offices, conference & meeting rooms, and a community kitchen & dining area.

- The 11 turnkey apartments on the 2nd floor will be emergency shelter, increasing bed capacity from 37 to 60.
- The 11 turnkey apartments on the 3rd floor will be transitional housing for up to 2 years, along with case management, to help survivors build the life skills and self-sufficiency they need to break generational cycles of abuse and poverty.
- Dedicated community partner offices will provide space for outside agencies to hold office hours, increasing client access to a variety of community supports and avoiding duplication of services.
- A large community conference room will be used for training local law enforcement, business, faith groups, and community organizations about domestic abuse and other services.

Policy Discussion:

The commission has recognized Government Identified Community Projects that support or enhance county services:

- 1) Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services routinely collaborates and provides resources to Winnebago County Human Services, Public Health, Sheriff's Department, and the District Attorney's Office.
- 2) Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services' current facility at 206 Algoma Blvd limits growth of the program, and purchasing the 3-story, 36,000 sq. ft., fully ADA compliant Beach Building will allow for increased access and programmatic flexibility
- 3) Based projected purchase price, the following amounts represent a percentage of the purchase:

Attachments: