Short Term Shelter Funding Request

Emily Ball, Homeless Strategy Division Manager

September 12, 2023

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE



Key Takeaways

- Unsheltered homelessness has increased significantly during the pandemic. Based on a comprehensive needs assessment, the National Alliance to End Homelessness recommended adding 95 shelter beds to meet the need.
- Our community's planning body, the Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee (HIAC), has identified 3 shelter providers who can collectively add a total of 43 new beds.
- HIAC has asked the City and County for a combined $1,750,000 to fund this initiative.
- Buncombe County has authorized $875,000 to fund this effort.
- Beds would be available this fall, and would complement upcoming permanent supportive housing developments and Code Purple to meaningfully expand community capacity to respond to unsheltered homelessness.
- Staff are recommending that $875,000 in City ARPA funds be allocated to match Buncombe County funding for this initiative.

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Short Term Emergency Shelter Expansion

- Unsheltered homelessness has increased significantly during the pandemic.
- In January 2023, the National Alliance to End Homelessness recommended adding 95 high-access beds to the community's shelter inventory to respond to the increase in unsheltered homelessness.
- The Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee (HIAC) initiated a Shelter Work Group to develop a strategy to produce the recommended beds. Through a Request for Partnership, the work group identified 3 shelter providers able to add capacity:
    - Haywood Street Respite: 3 beds
    - Safe Shelter: 20 beds
    - Salvation Army: 20 beds
- The Shelter Work Group also identified a need to preserve 45 beds at risk of closure at the Salvation Army due to the end of federal CARES Act funding.

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Short Term Emergency Shelter Expansion

- HIAC submitted a request to the City of Asheville and Buncombe County to:
  - Provide $1,750,000 in funding to add 43 beds and preserve 45 beds
  - Participate in a taskforce to plan a new, permanent high-access shelter
- At their September 5, 2023 meeting, Buncombe County Commissioners authorized
  - $875,000 in ARPA funding for these beds
  - An interlocal agreement to provide those funds to the City to administer through contracts with shelter providers

Short Term Emergency Shelter Expansion

- The City of Asheville received $26,293,853 in ARPA funding and has an unallocated balance of $1,376,384.
- In alignment with continued commitment to implement NAEH recommendations, staff is recommending that City Council match the County's contribution and authorize:
  - Up to $875,000 in remaining ARPA funding to add 43 beds and preserve 45 beds
  - An interlocal agreement to receive and administer the County's matching funds for this initiative

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