

Business Item

Community Development Committee



Committee Meeting Date: August 7, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: August 23, 2023

Business Item: 2023-166

Homework Starts with Home (HSWH) – Anoka County

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 462A
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Stephanie Paulson, Assistant Director, (651) 602-1584
Division/Department:	Community Development/Metro HRA

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt Resolution No. 2023-10 (attached) as required by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to:

1. Authorize the Metropolitan Council's Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement for the Housing Trust Fund award of \$511,680.
2. Authorize the Director of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to execute a Memorandum of Understanding as a requirement of the Homework Starts with Home (HSWH) Program in partnership with Anoka County.

Background

[Homework Starts with Home](#) (HSWH) is a state grant program focused on addressing homelessness and housing instability among students and their families. The program provides supportive services to find and maintain housing stability along with financial assistance for security deposit, rental assistance, and other housing related costs.

In 2020, Anoka County was awarded a HSWH planning grant. A strategic consultant was contracted to assist the county in identifying the need for an ongoing grant and to outline negative deficits needing to be addressed. The 2021 planning report included information on negative impacts, including disparate educational outcomes and increased childhood trauma, that children and youth experiencing homelessness in Anoka County face.

In 2023, Anoka County and community partners, including the Metro HRA, submitted a joint application to Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA). The application received full funding for a total of \$1.1 million. The joint application offers a comprehensive approach to housing stability in partnership with selected Anoka-Hennepin Schools.

1. Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP): Program participants will have access to more flexible funds intended to give households adequate time to address financial barriers and costs accumulated during their housing crisis. The Metro HRA will not operate this program. The award has a goal of assisting an estimated 36 eligible households over the term of the grant.
2. Housing Trust Fund (HTF): Families will be referred to HTF after being identified as needing longer time to increase income and address barriers to avoid homelessness. The Metro HRA will provide rental assistance for an estimated 35 families over the term of the four-year grant.

With support provided by Anoka County and partners, families will transition off the program sporadically as household incomes increase or households are referred for a Housing Choice Voucher. The Metro HRA was awarded \$511,680 to operate this program.

3. Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) preference: Up to ten (10) program participants per grant year will be offered a Metro HRA HCV to promote housing stability or locational preference closer to employment or other household preferences. Referred families will be connected to ongoing support such as Housing Stabilization Services.

Rationale

The grant will allow the Metro HRA to provide continued rental assistance to Anoka County HSWH program participants.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The program supports the Thrive outcomes of equity, livability, and prosperity by increasing the housing choices available to low-income families across the region. Families that have stable housing in a community of their choice are better able to thrive.

Funding

The funding award for the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) as a part of Homework Starts with Home is \$511,680 for the period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2027.



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-10

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DIRECTOR OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (METRO HRA) TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH MINNESOTA HOUSING FOR THE HOUSING TRUST FUND PROGRAM

WHEREAS:

The Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority was awarded \$511,680 by Minnesota Housing for the administration of the Housing Trust Fund Program for the period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2027.

WHEREAS:

Minnesota Housing requires a resolution as a part of the funding award process designating named signatories and authority to enter into grant agreements, or other documents required for funding.

WHEREAS:

The Metropolitan Council authorized the Director of the Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority, to execute grant agreements and other documents required for the Housing Trust Fund Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

That the Metropolitan Council's Regional Administrator is authorized to execute the required grant agreement and other documents required by Minnesota Housing for the funding awarded for the Housing Trust Fund program.

Adopted this 23 day of August 2023.

X

Charles A. Zelle
Chair, Metropolitan Council

X

Recording Secretary

