

# RESOLUTION

## ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brian Knudson  
INITIATED BY



2/5/2022  
DATE DRAFTED

### Creating a ~~Housing~~ **Homelessness Prevention** Coordinator and ~~Allocating Funding for Housing~~ **Consultant Services Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds**

**WHEREAS**, unmet needs and community-wide challenges related to homelessness and lack of affordable housing continue to surface in Rock County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Human Services Department, and the County in general, does not have responsibility, funding, nor designated staff for housing and homelessness related efforts and programs, yet challenges related to housing and homelessness impact County operations daily; and

**WHEREAS**, adequate response to these needs requires designated staff resource and specific subject matter expertise to recommend policy actions, coordinate county related efforts, and collaborate with local stakeholders including the Rock County Housing Authority, and other municipalities that choose to prioritize strategic efforts to address homelessness; and,

**WHEREAS**, the creation of a Housing Coordinator position as a project position to be hired in 2022 and to end in 2024, would play a key role in advancing efforts to reduce homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, long term improvements in outcomes related to housing and homelessness will only come with a targeted effort toward homelessness prevention including work to develop employment readiness resources and to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment; ~~effective needs assessment and strategic planning efforts that will require outside consultant expertise;~~ and

**WHEREAS**, effective needs assessment and strategic planning efforts will require outside consultant expertise; and,

**WHEREAS**, the projected cost for the ~~Housing~~ Homelessness Prevention Coordinator Position from April 1, 2022- December 31, 2024 is \$278,772.00 and the projected cost of consultant services is \$150,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, ARPA allows for funds to be utilized for this purpose, as the Final Rule states that “programs or services to improve access to stable, affordable housing among individuals who are homeless, and the development of affordable housing to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units, are responsive to individuals and households that were impacted by the pandemic”, and lists “promoting long-term housing security” as an eligible use of ARPA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, utilizing ARPA funds in this manner represents a wise investment in long term reductions in homelessness and increased access to affordable housing in Rock County, thereby saving money spent on short-term solutions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 24th day of February, 2022, does hereby create a 1.0 FTE ~~Housing~~ Homelessness Prevention Coordinator in Range 22 of the Unilateral Pay Grid as a project position in the Human Services Department and allocates up to \$428,772 of ARPA funds to be utilized for the costs of this position ~~and contracted consultant services~~ for planning efforts to reduce homelessness in Rock County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2022 budget be amended as follows:

Account	Budget at 2/1/2022	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
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<u>Source of Funds</u>			
19-1980-0000-42100	\$17,723,024	\$428,772	\$18,151,796
ARPA		<u>\$278,772</u>	<u>\$18,001,796</u>
 <u>Use of Funds</u>			
19-1980-3112-62109	-0-	\$278,772	\$278,772
Personnel			
19-1980-3112-62104	-0-	\$150,000	\$150,000
Consulting Services		<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution allocates \$428,772 of ARPA funds to efforts to reduce homelessness.

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01, 59.22(2) and 59.51, Wis. Stats. Professional services are not subject to bidding requirements of § 59.52(29), Stats. As an amendment to the adopted 2022 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to § 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

This would be an eligible expenditure of ARPA funds. While not a mandated service, the County has been under increasing pressure to address homelessness and affordable housing issues. If the Board prioritizes the County's role in these efforts, having additional resources for a limited amount of time would be helpful.

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**Committee Action**

County Board Staff Committee

County Board Staff Committee failed to recommend this resolution for approval by a roll call vote of 4-5 in which Supervisors Leavy, Davis, Brien, and Rich Bostwick voted "Aye" and Supervisors Podzilni, Peer, Yeomans, Beaver, and Sweeney voted "Nay."

Human Services Board

The Human Services Board recommended this resolution for approval as amended by acclamation. Supervisor Pam Bostwick was absent.

The approved amendment is noted below in red.

Title: Creating a ~~Housing~~ Homelessness Prevention Coordinator.....

**WHEREAS**, adequate response to these needs requires .....Rock County Housing authority, and other municipalities that choose to prioritize strategic efforts to address homelessness; and,

**WHEREAS**, in addition, long term improvements in outcomes related to housing and homelessness will

only come with a targeted effort toward homelessness prevention including work to develop employment readiness resources and to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment; ~~effective needs assessment and strategic planning efforts that will require outside consultant expertise~~; and,

WHEREAS, effective needs assessment and strategic planning efforts will require outside consultant expertise; and,

**WHEREAS**, the projected cost for the ~~Housing~~ Homelessness Prevention Coordinator Position from April 1, 2022- December 31, 2024 is \$278,772.00 and the projected cost of consultant services is \$150,000.00; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 does hereby create a 1.0 FTE ~~Housing~~ Homeless Prevention Coordinator.....

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Fox was absent.