Report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into purchase of service contracts for the operation of the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), by recommending adoption of the following:

AN AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 46.09 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances requires approval by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) for the purchase of human services from nongovernmental vendors and therefore, the Interim Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has requested authorization to enter into Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 Purchase of Service Contracts with community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) is statutorily and contractually required to perform this critical service for the residents of our County year-round, with 24-hour access to assistance; and

WHEREAS, funding to support these contracts as well as County staff and overhead costs is provided by the State of Wisconsin (the State) Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) contract, and is contingent upon Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding; and

WHEREAS, the contract recommendations are anticipated to be within the limits of the FFY 2021 State/County contract; and

WHEREAS, funding to support WHEAP is provided by the WHEAP contract, which was approved by File No. 18-634 for a five-year term, effective October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019, with four additional, one-year renewals through September 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the funding level is anticipated to be consistent with prior year base funding of \$2.7 million, with a final amount to be announced by mid-September, and if the actual funding is less than anticipated, the agency contracts will be reduced and DHHS will inform the County Board of this change; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on September 17, 2020, the Committee on Finance heard testimony from DHHS staff that the County's anticipated WHEAP revenue of \$2.7 million has been reduced by approximately \$1 million compared to the 2020 contract and reallocated to another entity contracted by the State to process energy assistance applications received online; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of September 17, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-633 as amended (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) hereby authorizes the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), or her designee, to execute contracts with the following vendors for the term of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 (October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021), and in the following initial amounts not to exceed:

Community Advocates, Inc. \$1,421,268
United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS), Inc. \$728,877 **Total** \$2,150,145

<u>; and</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Interim Director, DHHS, or her designee, is hereby requested to furnish an informational report to the County Board as soon as practical regarding the unexpected reallocation of State of Wisconsin (the State) Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) funding by the State and its impact, if any, on the residents seeking assistance and the aforementioned contract amounts listed above; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Interim Director, DHHS, or her designee, is hereby authorized by the County Board to amend the Community Advocates, Inc., and UMOS, Inc., contracts due to the receipt of any addenda increasing the WHEAP contract with DHHS from the Wisconsin Department of Administration Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources for the operation of the WHEAP during FFY 2021.

75 srb 76 09/17/2020

S:\Committees\2020\Sept\FINANCE\Resolutions\20-633 HHS - WHEAP POS Contracts.docx