

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 15, 2025

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, DHHS

Subject: A report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into purchase of service contracts within Housing Services

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter purchase of service contracts and contract amendments as outlined below.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to execute these purchase of service contracts and amendments.

Wisconsin State Statutes:		59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

***Housing Supportive Services (HSS):
Empowerment Villages, Farwell Studios, Highland Commons***

Wisconsin Community Services (WCS), Inc. currently provides on-site Supportive Housing Services to the residents at Empowerment Villages, Farwell Studios, and Highland Commons. These services assist individuals who have a history with mental health and/or homelessness with maintaining their individual housing unit. In addition, this contract supports the coordination of case management. To continue to support the changing needs of the residents among these three buildings, Housing is requesting the following amendments:

Service	Provider	Current Contract	Amendment	Adjusted Contract
HSS – Empowerment Villages	WCS	\$176,529	\$30,000	\$206,529
HSS – Farwell Studios	WCS	\$100,000	(\$10,000)	\$90,000
HSS – Highland Commons	WCS	\$140,000	(\$20,000)	\$120,000
Total		\$416,529	\$0	\$416,529

Smart Reentry Program

Housing Services has accepted a grant with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) 2024 Smart Reentry: Housing Demonstration Project for a term of October 1, 2024, through September 31, 2027. The purpose is to increase affordable, safe housing options for Milwaukee County's Community Reintegration Center (CRC) residents reentering the community. Project activities include convening a reentry task force; supplying safe and affordable housing for CRC residents upon reentry; providing secure, stable short-term and permanent Housing Services for CRC residents upon reentry; and delivering wraparound services to meet common needs of, and provide continuity of care to, CRC residents.

Under this grant funded program, My Way Out, Inc. provides reentry services and referrals to residents at the CRC including, but not limited to counseling, housing, employment, and other related services. Housing Services is requesting to amend the current contract to extend it through 9/30/2026 and add \$91,387 for a total contract amount of \$180,253.

Service	Provider	Current Contract	Amendment	Adjusted Contract
Smart Reentry	My Way Out	\$88,866	\$91,387	\$180,253
Total		\$88,866	\$91,387	\$180,253

Continuum of Care Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Grant Programs

Supportive Housing case managers provide ongoing support and resources such as income and employment, access to food, hygiene support, problem solving, and budgeting. They assist in establishing personal goals and completing an Individualized Service Plan (ISP), work with residents to maintain permanent housing, provide community resources to assist with security deposits, application fees, moving expenses, furniture, and utilities. West Haven transitional housing is a 90-day placement for women who are survivors of domestic violence.

Those admitted into the Safe Haven Program will be connected to community case management and ancillary services that are conducive to their recovery and housing stability. The period for the following contracts is October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Service	Provider	FFY2025 Contract
Supportive Housing Case Management – Rapid Rehousing DV	The Benedict Center, Inc	\$58,500
Supportive Housing Case Management – Rapid Rehousing DV	Community Advocates, Inc	\$58,500
Housing Supportive Services – West Haven	Community Advocates, Inc	\$174,132
	Total	\$291,132

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This action item aligns with strategic plan objectives 2A (Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity and 3A (Invest “upstream to address root causes of health disparities).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to execute purchase of service contracts and amendments for the services identified in the accompanying resolution.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no fiscal effect as expenditures and revenues for these contracts and amendments are reflected in the 2025 budget for Housing Services.

TERMS

The term of the contracts and amendments in this report are as follows:

Program	Provider	Term
Housing Supportive Services – EV, FS, HC	Wisconsin Community Services, Inc	1/1/2025-12/31/2025
Smart Reentry	My Way Out, Inc	1/1/2025-9/30/2026
SH Case Management – Rapid Rehousing DV	The Benedict Center, Inc	10/1/2025-9/30/2026
SH Case Management – Rapid Rehousing DV	Community Advocates, Inc	10/1/2025-9/30/2026
Housing Supportive Services – West Haven	Community Advocates, Inc	10/1/2025-9/30/2026

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

James Mathy, Housing Administrator

PREPARED BY:

James Mathy, Housing Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Willie Johnson Jr., Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, & Strategic Planning Committee
Liz Sumner, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Joseph Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance
Steve Cady, Research Director, Office of the Comptroller
Madeline Fruehe, Budget and Management Analyst, SBP