

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
**INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**DATE:** October 24, 2014

**TO:** Supervisor Peggy Romo West, Chairwoman, Health and Human Needs Committee

**FROM:** Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by James Mathy, Administrator, Housing Division*

**SUBJECT:** **An informational report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), concerning funding for emergency shelter care**

**Issue**

At the request of the Chairwoman of the Health and Human Needs Committee, the following information is being provided regarding homeless shelter funding within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

**Discussion**

County funding for homeless shelters is administered solely by the DHHS Division of Housing. For the last several years, the budget for Housing has included base level funding of \$418,399.

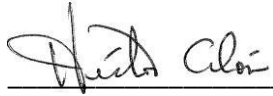
Over the last few years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been shifting its resources away from homeless shelters and toward permanent housing. In response to these federal cuts, homeless shelters have sought funding from other sources to fill this gap.

As part of the 2014 Adopted Budget, the County Board approved an increase of \$300,000 to the base level funding for a total amount of \$718,399. Due to fiscal challenges, the 2015 County Executive's Recommended Budget returns the funding for homeless shelters back to the original base level funding amount of \$418,399. This represents the total funds Milwaukee County allocates to the operation of homeless shelters.

In addition to the annual contribution towards homeless shelter operations, the Housing Division funds several additional programs for the homeless totaling over \$5.4 million. This includes housing initiatives, case management, and system supports for the operation of the Milwaukee Continuum of Care and the 211 Coordinated Entry system.

Since 2013, the Division has increased homeless funding by \$1.25 million to increase services for homeless individuals. This has included a homeless veterans initiative, two new housing programs to transition individuals into permanent housing that were at risk of being homeless, and investments into the new coordinated entry system

Respectfully Submitted,



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Héctor Colón, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board  
Don Tyler, Director, DAS  
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