

Narrative Project Descriptions of Proposed Use of Funds for the 2024 Annual Action Plan

Housing Rehabilitation

Hearts and Hammers **\$10,000**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

Hearts & Hammers will use funds for painting and exterior rehabilitation of homes for low-income seniors, disabled individuals, and veteran homeowners within suburban Ramsey County. Through Hearts & Hammers, we aim to restore each house’s character and accessibility, ensuring that residents can continue living independently and comfortably. The project will mobilize teams of volunteers who generously donate their time and skills to transform homes in a single day. Activities include exterior painting, caulking, repair of damaged siding or trim, railing installation, and landscaping or yard renewal as needed. By addressing these essential home-improvement needs, we aim to enhance the overall quality of life for residents in our community.

Hammer Residences, Scattered Site Home Revitalization **\$131,000**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

Hammer Residences will rehabilitate multiple homes that residents with disabilities live in across multiple communities in suburban Ramsey County. The funding will also allow Hammer Residences to meet federal requirements like the environmental review, lead paint assessments and radon testing. Hammer will rehab one home at a time.

MN One-Stop for Communities, Program Services **\$85,000**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

MN One-Stop will use funds from Ramsey County CDBG to expand services by increasing the number of individuals served on a nightly basis. This will be accomplished by adding bedrooms and bathrooms, updating the exterior, adding laundry machines, and installing play areas at three of its sites. Currently, Kingston House is a single family home located in Maplewood. Funds will be used to replace the exterior siding, add a privacy fence in the backyard, install a children’s play system, add a bedroom and a bathroom, and add coin-operated washing machine and dryer. The Victoria House is a single family home located in Roseville. Funds will be used to add a bedroom and bathroom, a privacy fence to the backyard, install a children’s play system, and add a coin-operated washing machine and dryer. The Edgemont House is a single family home located in Maplewood. Funds will be used to add a bedroom, a bathroom, a privacy fence in the backyard, install a children’s play system, and add coin-operated washing machine and dryer.

Slipstream Inc., Critical Repair Program **\$544,099**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

The Critical Repair Program will use funding to provide grants to suburban Ramsey County homeowners who reside in either owner-occupied homes or manufactured homes and are considered low-to-moderate income. Grants will be used to make necessary health, safety, code and

related repairs. It will expand services for single-family homes where level of needs exceeds available grant funding and coordinate with Ramsey County Rehab Loan Program. Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties will complete the on-the-ground rehab advising and Slipstream will lead the administration of the program.

Slipstream Inc., Rehab Loan Program **\$450,000**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

The Rehab Loan Program will use funding to provide forgivable loans to suburban Ramsey County homeowners who reside in owner-occupied homes and are considered low-to-moderate income. Loans will be processed to provide needed health, safety, code and related repairs. Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties will complete the on-the-ground rehab advising and Slipstream will lead the administration of the program.

Public Services

Tenant Hotline- HOME Line **\$40,000**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

HOME Line's tenant hotline program provides free and confidential legal advice to renters throughout the state about any rental issue they are experiencing. Homeline expect to serve approximately 1,000 households in suburban Ramsey County during the next year, providing advice about repairs, evictions, notices to vacate, security deposits, privacy, questions about leases, and more. The renters the program serves are disproportionately low-income, people of color, and female.

HousingLink, Beyond Backgrounds **\$22,400**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

Beyond Backgrounds serves low-to-moderate-income renters in suburban Ramsey County. The vast majority of renters in the program have income below 30% of the area median income. The program helps renters get housed by engaging properties in renting to households they would normally deny for not meeting their resident selection criteria. This is accomplished by renters accessing resources that help them understand and explain the barriers in their background like criminal convictions, bad credit, and recent eviction. In addition to education, our housing search connects them to properties willing to consider Beyond Backgrounds program participants. Finally, if a property requires it, the renter can also secure a risk assurance fund that provides the property access up to \$2,000 at the end of the lease period. This fund can be used to pay for past due rent, cover damages to the unit, or eviction filing fees. Our program has seen 96% of the renters complete their 12-month lease.

Open Arms of Minnesota, Nutrition Program **\$20,000**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

Open Arms will use funds to prepare and delivery hundreds of meals for low-income suburban Ramsey County residents living chronic and severe illness. Open Arms' Nutrition Program pairs homemade,

medically tailored meals with nutrition education and counseling; this model ensures the clients receive both the nutrition and the information they need to improve their health. Each year, our volunteers deliver to more than 4,200 clients, caregivers, and dependent children living throughout the Twin Cities and Minnesota, including suburban Ramsey County.

White Bear Area Food Shelf, Food Support **\$20,000**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

White Bear Area Food Shelf has been serving residents in suburban Ramsey County experiencing food insecurity for over 40 years. The new Community Market provides healthy culturally connected food 4 days a week. WBAFS receives food rescued from nine local grocery stores that includes fresh produce, frozen meat, deli, dairy and bakery items. This is supplemented with a purchased delivery each week from Second Harvest Heartland food bank of fresh produce and culturally connected dry goods. This food is received by the WBAFS Food Systems Coordinator and is sorted and stocked by a team of volunteers supervised by the WBAFS Community Market Program Specialist. The Community Market food distribution happens with a team of volunteers who assist neighbors with questions about products, using the iPads at checkout, and connecting them to the food shelf’s Community Resource Coordinator for additional support services.

Keystone Community Services, Food Support **\$20,000**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

Keystone will use the funding to purchase and distribute food to an estimated 2,000 suburban Ramsey County residents via approximately 3,000 visits in 2024. This project will distribute food to low-and moderate-income suburban Ramsey County residents using Keystone’s food shelves, two Foodmobiles that visit 11 suburban Ramsey County distribution sites on a regular monthly schedule, and food shelf home delivery to 20-30 suburban Ramsey County older adults and people with disabilities each month.

Ramsey County Housing Stability Department, Rapid Stabilization Program **\$135,350.43**
Suburban county-wide **CDBG**

The Family Emergency Shelter Team/Rapid Stabilization project navigates households with minor children to and through the emergency shelter system. This includes diverting families from entering shelter whenever possible, referring families to emergency shelter, and joining them with Coordinated Entry to receive supportive housing and rapid stabilization services. Staff help residents identify and create a barrier plan to help them connect to resources to be successful in completing their plan. The premise of the program is that success is most attainable when people have the acknowledged resources and support in paving their own pathway to success.

HOME-funded Housing Development Projects

Lupe Development, New Senior Rental Construction **\$576,784**
Little Canada, MN **HOME**

Lupe Development proposes a 106-unit, 100% affordable senior rental housing project in Little Canada, Little Canada. This will be a 4-story building with one level of underground parking. The site will also have grade level parking lot. The 106 units of affordable housing will include 20 studios, 67 one-bedrooms and 19 two-bedrooms with rents ranging from 30% to 80% of the area median income.

**Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties, CHDO
5931 Lexington Avenue, Shoreview, MN**

**\$150,800
HOME**

5931 Lexington Avenue in Shoreview is a single-family home that was recently purchased by the City of Shoreview from Ramsey County's Productive Properties Division. The single-family home was formerly tax-forfeited and is currently vacant. Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties will renovate the home and rent it to a low-to-moderate income family. HUD requires HOME recipients to set aside funding for eligible Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) every year. This project will use part of the CHDO set aside from the 2022 and 2023 Annual Action Plans.