
Sponsor: Housing Stability

Meeting Date: 12/16/2025

Title: Grant Agreement with the City of Saint Paul for Familiar Families Pilot Program

File Number: 2025-540

Background and Rationale:

The Heading Home Ramsey Family Shelter Workgroup identified a small but highly vulnerable group of families who experience persistent, chronic homelessness and have repeatedly struggled to stay in traditional shelter environments due to complex behavioral, trauma-related, and multi-system needs.

These families often cycle between unsheltered homelessness, emergency response systems, schools, hospitals, and criminal legal involvement without stabilizing. Their needs generate high public sector costs and significant safety concerns.

To address this gap, the Workgroup designed the *Innovative Familiar Families Pilot Program*, which would support up to five families at a time—approximately 20 individuals, the majority of whom are children. With an estimated average shelter stay of four months, the program is expected to serve at least 60 individuals per year during the initial pilot.

Families eligible for this pilot will meet one or both criteria with priority being placed on families meeting both criteria:

1. 4+ years of homelessness per McKinney-Vento (non-sequential), and
2. Restricted or banned from at least one traditional family shelter or County-funded hotel program.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Accept a grant award and approve a grant agreement with the City of Saint Paul for the period of December 20, 2025 through December 19, 2026 through in the amount of \$500,000.00.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.
3. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.
4. Authorize the County Manager to submit future grant applications and accept future grant funding to support program operations and sustainability, in a form approved by the County Attorney's Office.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Xiong.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

By: Jason Yang
Jason Yang, Chief Clerk - County Board