
Sponsor: Health and Wellness, Safety and Justice

Meeting Date: 1/27/2026

Title: Allocation of Grant Funds from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety towards the Acquisition of Youth Healing and Treatment Homes.

File Number: 2026-055

Background and Rationale:

Ramsey County's youth justice reforms are rooted in nearly two decades of intentional system transformation focused on reducing detention, addressing racial disparities, and expanding community-based alternatives to out-of-home placement. These efforts culminated in a 2023 legislative appropriation to support the development of culturally specific, trauma-informed youth healing and treatment homes, informed by community engagement and statewide recommendations to create more individualized, community-centered systems of care.

Through cross-county and state collaboration, several bills were authored and passed with direct appropriations for Ramsey County. The focus of this Request for Board Action is an appropriation made in Laws 2023, Ch. 52, Public Safety Omnibus Bill, which states:

(h) Ramsey County Youth Treatment Homes Acquisition and Betterment

\$5,000,000 grant to Ramsey County to establish, with input from community stakeholders, including impacted youth and families, up to seven intensive trauma-informed therapeutic treatment homes in Ramsey County that are licensed by the Department of Human Services, that are culturally specific, that are community-based, and that can be secured. These residential spaces must provide intensive treatment and intentional healing for youth as ordered by the court as part of the disposition of a case in juvenile court.

Following the board's acceptance of the grant award in May 2024, the county conducted a structured solicitation in accordance with county procurement policies and procedures to identify qualified client services providers to partner with the county and capable of meeting programmatic, licensing, and community requirements to establish one or more youth treatment homes. Resulting client services agreements are currently under final negotiations and will be fully executed prior to the loan or other agreements being executed by the county.

Under these partnerships, in addition to the contracted amount specified in the client service agreements, this allocation of funding will facilitate full financing in the form of forgivable 10-year mortgages. The county's interests in each loan will be secured through execution of a Promissory Note, a recorded Mortgage, and Declarations that will be recorded against the properties and which shall reserve for the County the first option to repurchase at the fair market value at the time of repurchase, i.e., right of first refusal.

All homes will be funded in compliance with applicable state and local regulations, using financing documents approved by the County Attorney's Office. The acquisition of each home will be subject to required contingencies prior to execution of the financing documents, including execution of the services agreements; approval of the Purchase Authorization by the county; completion and approval of county inspections; and receipt of provisional zoning approval prior to closing. Additionally, the county will continue working with the Minnesota Department of Human Services

(DHS) to build strong relationships and frameworks to support providers through the licensing process, which can only occur after the purchase is complete.

By authorizing the County Manager to execute the necessary loan, financing, and related agreements, the county will be positioned to respond efficiently to identified housing opportunities. This authority will support timely investment in the identified need for treatment capacity rather than long-term property management, strengthen community-based provider infrastructure, and advance the County's goal of keeping youth closer to their families and communities while delivering intensive therapeutic services.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the allocation of Minnesota Department of Public Safety grant funds toward the acquisition of Youth Healing and Treatment Homes in the amount of \$1,950,000.
2. Authorize the County Manager to enter into the necessary loan or other agreements and execute amendments to loan or other agreements in a manner consistent with local regulations and requirements, in a form approved by the County Attorney's Office.

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

Aye: - 6: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

Excused: - 1: McMurtrey

By: 

Jason Yang, Chief Clerk - County Board