



Tompkins County Legislature

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 07/18/17 05:30 PM
Department: County Administration
Category: Housing

Functional Category: Human Services Agencies

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. DOC ID: 7103

Appropriation of \$50,000 from Contingent Fund to Support the Ithaca/Tompkins Continuum of Care’s Transitional Housing Plan

WHEREAS, the shortage of affordable housing has been identified as one of Tompkins County’s most critical challenges, and

WHEREAS, as one of many initiatives undertaken by this Legislature to understand and help mitigate the affordable housing crisis, a “multi-year over-target” request was approved as a part of the 2017 County Budget process that provided \$50,000 per year for three years to support the development and implementation of a plan (the “Plan”) by the Human Services Coalition, as lead agency for the Ithaca/Tompkins Continuum of Care, for transitional housing serving the homeless or those re-entering the community from incarceration and/or recovery, and

WHEREAS, \$50,000 was allocated to the 2017 Contingent Fund awaiting the development of such a Plan by the Ithaca/Tompkins Continuum of Care, and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Coalition, as lead agency for the Ithaca/Tompkins Continuum of Care, has undertaken an inclusive process of soliciting proposals from area non-profit agencies and has recommended funding three projects with 2017 funding, namely:

- \$27,000 to Catholic Charities, in partnership with the Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS), for a “bridging the gap” rental subsidy intended to assist individuals meet the tenancy criteria for a rental unit through INHS,
- \$5,000 to the Advocacy Center to establish an Emergency Housing Fund for victims of domestic violence with the intent of preventing homelessness through this one-time financial support,
- \$18,000 to Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources (OAR) to support renovations to its “Endeavor House” project, a four-bedroom house that will provide transitional housing for those returning to the community from the Tompkins County Jail, and

WHEREAS, this Legislature concurs that the proposed use of funds is consistent with the intent established during the 2017 Budget process, will contribute toward the mitigation of the County’s housing crises, and should be released to support the Plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and the Budget, Capital, and Personnel Committees, That funds in the amount of \$50,000 for the housing initiative be allocated to the Human Services Coalition, as lead agency for the Ithaca/Tompkins Continuum of Care, for the purpose of supporting the three projects stated herein,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized and directed to make the following budget appropriation in fiscal year 2017:

FROM	A1990.54400	Contingent Fund	\$50,000
TO:	A6305.54400	Human Services Coalition-Program Expense	\$50,000

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20



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2 Summary-Ithaca/Tompkins Continuity of Care Transitional Housing Plan
3 Submitted by Kathy Schlather, Human Services Coalition
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6 Housing in Tompkins County for those who are homeless and have very limited resources is very difficult to find. The
7 current housing subsidy of approximately \$400 for an individual is not sufficient to secure housing that meets the
8 minimum basic standards for safety and affordable and is often situated in parts of the county with limited
9 transportation options.

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11 This funding will allow for greater options by providing housing subsidies and increased options.

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13 The three projects that were chosen were: (There were three additional projects that were not funded due to
14 insufficient funds)

15 **Catholic Charities/INHS**

16 \$27,000 for “bridging the gap” rental subsidy.

17 Catholic Charities of Tompkins /Tioga (CCTT) will provide rental subsidies to meet the tenancy criteria for a rental
18 unit through Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS). CCTT will provide case management services to the
19 households while they receive subsidies to help them remain housed and increase chances of avoiding future
20 periods of homelessness.

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22 Through this new partnership between INHS and CCTT, INHS has agreed to evaluate individuals and families on a
23 case by case basis. INHS is placing a greater emphasis on serving lower income community members, and hopes
24 to become a viable housing option for those who struggle with finding safe affordable housing. In the interest of
25 and serving people quickly, CCTT will work also with other landlords should INHS not have vacancies that would
26 meet the needs of a homeless applicant.

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28 The project is designed to lead to housing stability for ten homeless individuals/families in Tompkins County.
29 CCTT will aid participants in registering for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Waiting List upon moving into a
30 unit. Tompkins Community Action currently reports an approximate one-year wait for their Housing Choice
31 Voucher program, making this subsidy an ideal interim measure for a household to stabilize with the support of
32 our Service Navigator during the one-year period, and then accessing a permanent affordability option. This
33 service will help to reduce homelessness, including among those who are chronically so.
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36 **\$5,000 for the Advocacy Center for:**

37 A pilot rental subsidy program - an Emergency Housing Fund for victims of domestic violence that will provide one-
38 time financial support to prevent homelessness.

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40 The goals of this pilot program are to: a) reduce length of stay in the domestic violence shelter, and b) to prevent
41 homelessness for victims of domestic violence.

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There is a pattern of situations where victims of domestic violence need one-time money that is not available through other community resources. This funding will prevent homelessness or allow them to move out of the shelter. It is anticipated that AC will serve approximately 6-10 clients through this program. This assumes an average of \$750 per client. In the past 6 months the one time housing needs for this population have been identified as ranging from \$250-\$1200 per family.

\$18,000 for OAR's "Endevour House" renovations

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Individuals returning home to the community from jail are frequently homeless. OAR is has purchased a four bedroom house at 626 West Buffalo Street to provide transitional housing for those returning home to the community from the Tompkins County Jail. The house will require approximately \$80,000 in rehabilitation. All rooms will serve individuals living below the federal poverty guidelines. It is anticipated that three of the four bedrooms will house individuals currently receiving a monthly rental allowance of \$400 from the Department of Social Services. The residents of Endeavor House will all have low or no income; have criminal records; current/past substance abuse and most will have had a high utilization of crisis or emergency services.

OAR anticipates working with Endeavor House residents to develop reentry plans which will include long term housing plans. Section 8 applications will be completed upon move-in to Endeavor House. After a period of stabilization, Endeavor House residents may be interested and able to move to more independent housing.