

## **Waukesha County Emergency Food & Shelter Program Funding Request**

<p>Agency Requesting Grant Funds: <b>City of Waukesha Police Department</b> EIN: 39-6005642 and DUNS:073850166 130 Delafield Street Waukesha, WI 53188 262-524-3831</p>	<p>EFSP grant funding is being researched and requested by Specialists Jason Fink (<a href="mailto:jfink@waukesha-wi.gov">jfink@waukesha-wi.gov</a>) and Sunny Schneider (<a href="mailto:sschneider@waukesha-wi.gov">sschneider@waukesha-wi.gov</a>) from WKPD's Neighborhood Engagement Unit (NEU).</p>
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### **Statement of Need for Service**

It has been determined by The Waukesha Police Department (WKPD) that since the beginning of 2022 there is **no longer any Immediate Emergency Shelter (IES) intake availability** for our citizens in need outside of regular business daytime hours, Monday through Friday. This leaves Monday through Friday (80) after-hours and (48) after-hours on the weekend (128 hours per week) that our first responders are in dire need to find a remedy for.

Current shelter availability includes:

- *Women's Center*: Only for domestic violence situation.
- *Family Promise*: Very limited services available to WKPD.
- *Hebron Umbrella (Jeremy, Juno, Siena)*: Very limited after-hours intake.
- *Salvation Army*: 44 beds currently, always full.
- *Impact 211*: Only serves Milwaukee County residents and refers WKPD to above.
- *Housing Action Coalition (HAC) Overflow Shelter*: Warming only shelter, closing April 15th until next fall. Only accepts case managed referrals (no WKPD access).

WKPD in 2022 has increased attempts to partner with local shelters and has become a due paying member of the HAC. We have been attending meetings regularly and have been expressing our concerns and needs in open forums, as well as, in person and via email to the managers and directors of the above listed resources. A common response is that meetings are being held and discussions are being had to find solutions. It did not become clear until mid-February of 2022 that there is no solution in sight, and WKPD needs to look for new resources to address citizen needs.

**WKPD HAS EXHAUSTED ALL RESOURCES FOR IMMEDIATE IES NEEDS.**

## **Statistics & Examples**

WKPD currently utilizes the Phoenix system to track data. Until 2022 there has been no need to track specific data as to how many citizens in need of IES have not been able to find a shelter with the assistance of WKPD. Moving forward a new tracking method to obtain statistics and data on how many times a shelter placement was sought out and how many times it was approved or denied shall be implemented. Disposition codes of (SL) “Shelter located” and (SN) “Shelter Not Located” have been created. (SH) “Shelter Hotel” could be created to allow for an easy way to track data and provide funding records for accounting purposes.

Data regarding people suffering from chronic homelessness shows that from January 1, 2022 through April 1, 2022 there have been 49 dispositions specifically noted as “Homeless Advised” (HA). Most often this disposition involves people suffering from chronic homeless and has been a method to track frequent contact with subjects who do not wish to participate in a shelter program. Out of these 49 calls, 5 attempts to locate a shelter were made after hours with no success. Many calls for service after hours have not had an HA disposition, but unsuccessful attempts were made by dispatch to locate an IES placement for a *non-chronic* homeless citizen in need.

Phoenix data searching the keyword “SHELTER” shows that **over the past 6 months there has been about a 450% increase in times when an IES has not been available.** In October, November, and December of 2021 there were 4 instances noted of no IES available. In January, February, and March 2022 there were 18 instances noted.

Since determining that there have been several instances where dispatch could not find an available placement for *non-chronic* homeless citizens requesting shelter services, a request was made for our dispatch center to notify NEU every time a shelter was sought out and they were advised “no beds available.”

The following is sample information: Between the dates of March 6, 2022 and March 19, 2022 (only a 13-day period), 7 instances were documented in which dispatch was not able to locate a shelter bed for a citizen in need.

1. **12:36 a.m.** Female was kicked out of house, no shelters available, she ended up at George Webb.
2. **1:19 p.m** Male kicked out of house, no shelters available.
3. **10:34 p.m.** Male sleeping in shopping cart corral to stay out of weather, no shelters available, he was taken to the bus station to wait until buses started running to warm up.
4. **10:42 p.m.** Female in business to stay warm, no shelters available, she left frustrated.
5. **4:57 p.m.** Female at ER kicked out, no shelters available, her friend took her in for one night.
6. **6:51 p.m.** Female at bus station, no shelters available.
7. **10:48 p.m.** Male agitated and intoxicated, no shelters available, he was moved along.

## **Project Design & Implementation**

WKPD is requesting funding to offer IES for citizens in need.

Since there is currently extremely limited availability for after-hours shelter intake, we are requesting funds to be able to offer an overnight stay at one of our local hotels. Appropriate circumstances would need to be determined and a short questionnaire/contract would be required to be completed with the citizen in need to be offered this service. See proposed form attached. Citizen identification and information would be run to make sure there are no warrants on the subject, and they would need to be in a reasonable condition to not violate terms of the contract (i.e. not disorderly, or predisposed to cause damage, be willing to seek permanent shelter options or support services the following morning, etc.).

Three hotels have been identified as possible partners in housing. The Baymont Inn expressed support for this program and has provided voucher-based services in the past and would offer a discounted rate of \$95 per night. The Best Western expressed interest in offering similar services to specific individuals and would offer a corporate rate of \$75 per night. The Comfort Inn has also worked with shelters in the past offering services and has expressed interest in doing so again at a rate yet to be determined. All three hotels offer continental breakfasts and are near a bus line.

Waukesha Metro Transit has 10 packs of 901 tickets each for \$35 that would offer transportation into the city to local shelter or service organizations. It would also make available a transfer option that would allow for travel east to Milwaukee or west to Madison if that would better serve the citizen's needs.

### **Example:**

A male or female citizen is displaced at midnight with no financial means or ability to travel. No shelters available. The citizen is transported to one of Waukesha's local hotels and provided a **grant funded** room by law enforcement. Contract and information form completed. The citizen would have access to a telephone in their room with a resource list (shelters/programs) provided to locate appropriate services. In the morning the citizen would have access to a continental breakfast. A bus pass would be provided to the citizen to travel to one of the resources available to them during regular business hours for intake or travel out of the city to a location of their choice to stay with available family or friend support.

## **Budget & Funding Request**

By going off of the 13 days in March where dispatch was unable to find a bed for 7 individuals and calculating  $365/13=28.076 \times 7=196.538$ , a starting point round number should be 200 night stays and bus passes.

Average night in hotel (\$100 per stay)	= \$20,000 per year
Bus passes (20 10-packs \$35 each)	= \$700 per year
<b>Total request for funding</b>	<b>= \$20,700</b>

This funding is being requested to serve a **one year period** beginning from the date that funds are approved and become available for program implementation.

## **Tracking & Future Data**

WKPD is a government agency with the ability to accept federal funds. We have agents with the ability to complete accounting functions and conduct annual audits. We will be able to create a format to track every time that a citizen in need is provided immediate transportation, IES, availability of food, and future transportation to next step resources.

The Phoenix system can create spreadsheets based on specific data set and date requests. This program will be able to be tracked weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually depending on needs or requests.

WKPD will provide all invoices from hotels and Metro Transit to document all spending that directly serves citizens in need though this program.

## **WKPD Community Responsibilities & Duties**

WKPD leads with the ethos: Mission Driven, Vision Focused, People Always, and Be Engaged. We offer 24/7/365 service no matter the conditions. We are highly trained in emergency services and first responder needs. When the call comes in we respond and **provide supportive services** to citizens in need. We problem solve in high stress critical incidents, render aid, de-escalate situations, and transport citizens in need to locations that provide shelter, food, and other services.

Our department diligently sends Officers through Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and has Officers train a CIT course at in-service to keep our skills sharpened. This helps improve our knowledge and capabilities in serving our citizens when they need us the most. We also regularly collaborate with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and understand that often homelessness and mental health conditions can go together.

**WKPD understand that suffering from homelessness is not a crime.** We understand that if the situation continues as is without IES availability, homeless individuals will have a much higher propensity for participating in activities that may promote criminal behavior. This includes abusing substances and/or drugs. There is also a higher propensity for committing crimes based on basic survival needs, such as trespassing (shelter), theft, robbery, disorderly conduct, public urination/defecation, or worse. People who continue to suffer from homelessness are at a greater risk to have continued negative law enforcement contact, which routinely leads to criminal arrests. Based on the harm reduction model it would be significantly more beneficial for people suffering from homelessness to have readily available access to IES and public health services. This goal is consistent with the vision of our police department.

We must meet the needs of our homeless citizens. The EFSP grant can make IES a reality.