



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 2, 2024

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner
County Administrator

Re: **Additional Information for the Board of Supervisors February 6, 2024 Meeting; Item 29 Grant Acceptance - Community and Workforce Development**

Item 29 on the February 6, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting is a Grant Acceptance from the Arizona Department of Housing Homeless Shelter and Services Fund in the amount of \$3,513,944. This funding is being awarded to support Community & Workforce Development's (CWD) Emergency Housing program at The Craycroft shelter, formerly known as the Knights Inn. A component of the Emergency Eviction Legal Services division, this program provides noncongregate shelter to families and high-need individuals who are experiencing homelessness due to eviction.

As the attached memorandum from CWD Director Dan Sullivan explains in more detail, The Craycroft is a unique partnership between Pima County and the City of Tucson. The additional funding provided by this grant will not only allow existing operations to continue through Fiscal Year 2026; it will also fund capital improvements to improve safety, circulation, and aesthetics on the property and over \$1 million in rehousing assistance to help participants transition to stable housing.

JKL/anc

Attachment

- c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
- Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
- Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
- Dan Sullivan, Director, Community & Workforce Development
- Andrew Flagg, Deputy Director, Community & Workforce Development

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Date: February 2, 2024

To: Jan Leshner
County Administrator

From: Dan Sullivan 
Community & Workforce
Development Director

Re: Additional Information Regarding Arizona Department of Housing Homeless Shelter and Services Fund Award to Community & Workforce Development for The Craycroft Shelter

On February 6, 2024, the Board of Supervisors will vote on whether to accept an award of \$3,513,944 from the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) Homeless Shelter and Services Fund (HSSF) to support the Emergency Housing component of the Emergency Eviction Legal Services (EELS) Program. This grant funding will allow EELS to continue and augment this important program, which provides emergency housing to families and high-need individuals who have become homeless due to eviction.

Program Background

EELS began providing emergency housing, initially out of the Comfort Suites near the airport, in January 2022. This was done to fill a gap in the eviction safety net by providing low-barrier, noncongregate housing to mitigate the consequences of evictions that cannot be prevented. In August 2023, Pima County and the City of Tucson entered into an innovative partnership under which Pima County moved the EELS Emergency Housing program to a former hotel purchased by the City and continues to operate it under an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), which was approved by the Board of Supervisors and Mayor and Council August 21 and August 22, 2023, respectively. The background leading to the IGA's adoption, as well as the specifics of the IGA, are described in an August 18, 2023 memorandum to the Board.

Since the IGA's adoption, the City has invested over \$451,000 in repairs, furnishings, and other work to make the facility, now known as The Craycroft, move-in ready. Pima County hired three additional staff, bringing on-site staff to four, to provide case management and general operational support daily, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. EELS moved clients over from Comfort Suites in October 2023 and has since brought all new program intakes into The Craycroft. There are currently 31 households, consisting of 86 individuals, staying at the shelter.

Clients receive on-site case management and supportive services, including assessment for eligibility for housing and other benefit programs, assistance applying for rehousing support and housing vouchers, and no-charge, on-site health care provided by El Rio Health. Tucson Unified School District provides on-site support to ensure children are able to continue at their school while housed in the program, and Library District staff lead after-school activities on-site during the school year.

Most clients are referred to the program directly from Constables. However, staff also work closely with jurisdictional and community partners, especially the City of Tucson Housing First team, to both accept in and refer out clients based on proper program fit. Through Fiscal Year 2023, the EELS Emergency Housing program has served 260 households (761 individuals), 85% of which have exited the program to positive housing destinations.

HSSF Funding Opportunity

As noted in the August 18 memorandum, staff continued to seek funding to continue operation of the program beyond this year. On October 31, 2023, ADOH issued a Notice of Funding Availability for \$40 million statewide in HSSF funds to support programs providing shelter and services to unsheltered persons who are experiencing homelessness. Pima County applied for \$3,513,944 and received notice on January 2 that the full amount would be awarded.

The funding will continue and augment the program by providing the following:

- \$1,197,682.60 in operating payments to the City of Tucson, through June 30, 2026.
- \$1,045,000 in direct rehousing assistance to program participants, which will facilitate transition to stable housing by paying deposits, fees, prospective rent and other supportive services.
- \$514,878.17 to complete capital improvements, including the construction of a new fence and gate system, repaving and reconfiguring the entry drive, and landscaping to improve security and aesthetics at the property.
- \$375,000 to provide food to program participants.
- \$125,000 in hotel/motel vouchers for Homeless Services clients for short hotel stays at other properties.

With this additional funding, along with existing funding, the program will be able to continue operating through Fiscal Year 2026 and will be able to offer rehousing assistance that is not currently funded.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends acceptance of the grant award. Due to the need to deploy this funding as quickly as possible, staff also requests that, as part of that approval, the Board delegate to the Chair the authority to sign the Funding Agreement from ADOH, after it is received from ADOH and reviewed and approved by Grants Management & Innovation and the Pima County Attorney's Office.