



Item Number: 5

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: January 28, 2025

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole
LIAISON: Mark Washington, City Manager

FROM: Mary Kate Berens, Deputy City Manager
Executive Office

SUBJECT: **Resolution approving a Professional Services Agreement with Housing Kent in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to support implementation of priority projects identified in the Housing Kent State of Housing Report**

Housing Kent was launched as a backbone organization to support the Common Agenda and Roadmap that came out of intensive planning and alignment work of the Housing Stability Alliance from approximately 2018 to 2021. Housing Kent and the member organizations follow the collective impact model of design and alignment around shared goals to improve housing and housing stability outcomes for all people of Kent County. Since launching in 2022, Housing Kent has worked with member organizations on a number of foundational pieces needed to move the work forward in an aligned and consistent way, including extensive focus on data availability, data quality and data transparency; systems and resource mapping; and a comprehensive assessment of current conditions. This last piece, the Housing Kent State of Housing Report, will be released in its final form in early February, and is the result of significant stakeholder feedback on how to align actions to address the greatest needs identified in the report.

The City of Grand Rapids was a founding member of the Housing Stability Alliance work and both Mayor Bliss and City Manager Mark Washington have served on the Housing Kent board, and city staff have participated in convenings, work groups and action teams. Housing Kent's State of Housing Report identifies specific priority projects to improve key performance indicators and to continue implementation of the Common Agenda and Roadmap. These priority projects cover projects expected to align efforts and improve outcomes across the full spectrum of housing and housing stability services, including:

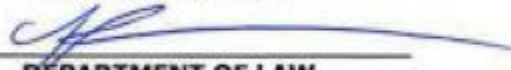
- projects with the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to end Homelessness, which is the Kent County Continuum of Care;
- alignment of providers and efforts around eviction prevention;

- projects designed to more rapidly produce housing units at a scale and pace to meet community needs; and
- work around fair housing and better equitable outcomes.

City staff expect to participate in this work and to align the City's own programs, where appropriate, to the goals and objectives of these priority projects. Providing financial support to Housing Kent will create capacity at the backbone organization level to structure system improvement projects, convene and organize meetings, provide research and subject matter expertise, maintain and report on shared data, and to analyze project and program effectiveness. The contract period will be for 12 months, anticipated to begin in February 2025.

Your COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE recommends the adoption of the following resolution approving a Professional Services Agreement with Housing Kent in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for support in implementation of priority projects identified in the Housing Kent State of Housing Report.

RESOLVED that the City enter in a Professional Services Agreement with Housing Kent in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, and that, upon approval as to form by the City Attorney, the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City.

CORRECT IN FORM

DEPARTMENT OF LAW