

Please complete this form in accordance with the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: Andrea Simonett and Francie Mathes, OEO, DHS

Title of Request: Sustain COVID homeless response and isolation space activities through March 2021

Date: 12/28/2020 **Request Amount:** \$ 8,900,000

Expenditure Time Period: 1/1/2021 to 6/30/2021

Request Funding Source:

- Coronavirus Relief Fund (if selected complete page 2)
- Health Care Response Fund
- COVID-19 Minnesota Fund

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

This proposal comes from the Governor's At-Risk Populations work group to sustain activities to protect people during the COVID-19 pandemic who are experiencing homelessness, victims of domestic or sexual violence, exploitation or trafficking, or unable to safely recover at home. These activities were previously supported by a \$26.5 million appropriation to DHS's Emergency Services Program (ESP) in March and Legislative Advisory Commission requests #48 and #86 to direct \$19.5 million in Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to these activities. The funds will be used for:

1. Activities to protect people experiencing homelessness who are eligible for ESP from the risks and impacts of COVID-19. Funds will cover lodging, supplies, staffing, food, protective equipment, and other costs necessary to provide protective spaces and other activities focused on protecting people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic. Previously allocated funds have helped establish over 2,800 safe places for people experiencing homelessness statewide, allowing existing emergency shelters to decompress and comply with CDC guidance for congregate settings and establishing new temporary shelter capacity.
2. Activities similar to ESP for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, or human trafficking or exploitation who are not homeless. These populations have similar needs that presently cannot be supported with ESP, and no other source exists.
3. Paying for capital expenditures necessary due to the COVID-19 public health emergency to increase COVID-19 response capacity and improve mitigation measures, such as acquisition of safe spaces for people experiencing homelessness and capital improvements for shelters and other settings to enhance infection control (e.g., dividing large rooms for sleeping accommodations into smaller rooms, installing plexiglass at front desks, or increasing spacing for bunks).
4. Establishing isolation spaces for suspected or confirmed COVID-positive people who are experiencing homelessness or who cannot safely isolate at home and who do not require a hospital level of care. Creating these spaces, usually in hotel settings, for those who need them is critical to minimize virus transmission.

The funding requested is estimated to support these four purposes through March 2021, but could be spent through the end of the State Fiscal Year. DHS will administer these funds using an approach informed by the COVID-specific ESP appropriation and previously allocated CRF funding for these purposes. Administrative funds (estimated at 1% of the total) are included to administer these programs. Funding distribution will seek to promote additional FEMA reimbursement for eligible activities as well, when possible and appropriate.

Charles E. Johnson Digitally signed by Charles E. Johnson
Date: 2020.12.28 15:58:39 -06'00'

Department Head Signature

Date