

Community Services League
Proposal for
Transitional Housing Services for Heart Village

Background

Due to the purchase of the land, and future construction for a new Jackson County detention center, residents of the Heart Village Mobile Home Park are slated to be relocated in the next six months. The County seeks to have all residents relocated by February 28, 2022.

Community Services League (CSL)

CSL has been helping Jackson County families for more than 105 years. As it pertains to housing, CSL engages in many supportive efforts, including:

- Homeless street outreach in Kansas City
- CSL is a point of Coordinated Entry for the local HUD Continuum of Care
- Through MHDC, we administer Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) dollars, MO Housing Trust Fund (MHTF) dollars, MO Housing Innovation Program (MOHIP) dollars, and others.
- Through Jackson County, we administer COMBAT, Emergency Rental Assistance, and Housing Resources Commission funds.
- CSL provides on-site Resident Services Coordination at Hawthorne Place Apartments in Independence and Colony Plaza Apartments in Excelsior Springs. This includes move-in, move-out services.
- HUD's Permanent Supportive Housing Program – we provide continuous support for 45 households in Jackson County.
- Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance – administered through some programs listed above, but also community- and philanthropy-based programs.

Opportunity

Residents at Heart Village have the opportunity for a fresh start, but sometimes an unplanned move can create chaos for a family. For example, a current job that a resident walks to might not be possible after a move. Or, a student might have to move schools in the middle of a year. Beyond that, many folks will be finding a new neighborhood, which can be a tough, new thing to navigate.

Community Services League can be a trusted partner of the County to help relocate these families. We would propose hiring two Family Stability Specialists to work with the 100 or so families relocating from Heart Village. Among their activities, we would:

- 1) Greet and form a working relationship with the families and mobile home park management
- 2) Do a baseline assessment of the family's situation
- 3) Explain to the families what the County is providing
- 4) Empower families to use their voice and choice in deciding where to live. We will not find housing for families, but can help guide them.
- 5) Use County funds, ERAP dollars, and other supports (some options listed above) to provide rent and utility support (delinquent, current, and future) to Heart Village residents to help with the move.

- 6) Coach families through issues like McKinney-Vento, which would allow students to stay enrolled in their home school during a move. There are countless issues around schools, transportation, finances, etc., that we can help families navigate.
- 7) Let families know about other CSL programs, like our Career Trainings, and inform them on other public and private assistance programs that will make their move easier.
- 8) Track the outcomes of families for a one-year period. The one-year period will be approximately September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022. CSL Family Stability Specialists will stay in contact with families after they move to help them acclimate.
- 9) Serve as the fiscal agent of the County to provide up to an average of \$10,000 of assistance to each family. CSL will write a check within 48 business hours (business hours defined as Monday-Friday, 8a-5p) of the request made by County staff. Checks will only be written to vendors (rent, utility, etc.), unless written permission is received from the County Administrator or his designee.
- 10) CSL will administer and coordinate its efforts with the County's relocation consultant handling the legal and logistics issues of moving the residents.

Proposed Budget for Community Services League

Family Stability Specialists (2) working for 12 months

Salaries: \$80,000

Employee-Related Expenses (20%): \$16,000

CSL Project Administration (25%): \$20,000

Relocation Consultant for the County (Mr. Don Frank) \$53,825

Total Administration/Project Overhead: \$169,825

Estimated Relocation Costs/Project Expenses for 106 residents: \$1,030,175

Total Project Budget: \$1,200,000