

DATE: October 1, 2020

SUBJECT: Dakota County Housing Support (formerly Group Residential Housing) standards and priorities

#### Background:

It is the goal of Dakota County Social Services to align services and housing resources with county-articulated values, vision and needs. [While Housing Supports \(formerly Group Residential Housing \(GRH\)\)](#) are completely state funded, the administration and oversight of Housing Supports is the responsibility of counties. This memo outlines Dakota County's standards and priorities for Housing Support settings and providers.

#### Application Process:

Applications for Housing Support can be requested and submitted at any time by contacting [Steve.Thronson@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US](mailto:Steve.Thronson@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US). Applications are reviewed on a monthly basis. Housing Support is used a wide variety of settings in our community that can look and operate very differently. The standards and priorities outlined in this memo are used by the County when reviewing completed applications for all types of Housing Support settings, including:

- Housing Support Rate 1 (base rate) or Rate 2 (supplemental service rate)
- Housing Support Group or Community settings
- New Housing Support providers, existing providers wanting to add an additional site, and Housing Support Agreement renewals
- NOTE: This does NOT apply to Family Adult Foster Care or Community Residential Settings that partner with Dakota County for their licensure.

#### Dakota County Standards:

Dakota County Social Services wants to maximize choice and community integration for individuals living in Housing Support settings by having:

- Available, accessible, affordable Housing Support sites throughout Dakota County
- Diversity of services, settings and providers that are able to meet the needs of our residents
- Community-based settings that do not congregate people needing supportive services into one neighborhood or building
- Providers who specialize in working with underserved or underrepresented populations

#### Dakota County Priorities:

To achieve these goals, Dakota County Social Services has established the following priorities to be used as a guide when evaluating all Housing Support applications:

- Sites allow individuals to live as independently and autonomously as possible
- Sites are accessible to individuals who have various mobility capabilities
- Sites function as a full apartment or home for each individual, and does not require shared kitchen, bathroom, or common areas
- Individuals are able to choose who they live with
- Providers who will serve seniors and those accessing services through the Elderly Waiver (EW)
- Providers who will serve individuals with complex rental histories and needs
- Providers that offer person centered services and do not impose arbitrary or unnecessary rules on residents