

ROSEVILLE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: July 26, 2021
Item No.: 7.c

Department Approval



City Manager Approval



Item Description: Authorize Roseville Police to Partner with AmeriCorps in Hosting a Heading Home Corps Housing Resource Navigator

BACKGROUND

The general overarching mission of the Roseville Police Department is to provide public safety services for the City of Roseville. The Roseville Police Department recognizes first hand that public safety is more than responding to crime. Often, crime and safety can be attributed to underlying factors within the realms of human services and public health. As part of an innovative new partnership with AmeriCorps, the City of Roseville will receive a full-time Heading Home Corps Housing Resource Navigator. The Navigator will complement our newly implemented Community Action Team in helping to identify individuals who are actively experiencing systemic inequities related to housing, supporting the individuals through the navigation of existing resources and through process improvement.

The Roseville Police Department is committed to Community Oriented Policing. We strive to establish connections with all community members and rely on positive relationships to solve problems in Roseville. Community partnerships are vital in keeping Roseville a safe community.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

The primary target population for this partnership are individuals and families experiencing homelessness or housing instability with an association to Roseville. According to a Ramsey County Community Health Assessment conducted in 2018 (www.ramseycounty.us/cha), Ramsey County has the highest rate of homelessness in the seven county metropolitan region. The Roseville Police Department Community Action Team has learned through current partnerships with housing advocates that suburbs will continue to see an increase in unsheltered individuals due to being turned away from inner-city shelters that continue to be at or beyond capacity.

The AmeriCorps member would be serving within the Community Action Team; a specialized unit with the Roseville Police Department designed to create and utilize partnerships and collaborations with a variety of human service providers, non-profits, advocate agencies, and other community organizations in order to creatively solve problems that cannot be solved through policing. Currently, the Community Action Team does not have an internal subject matter expert on housing. Similar to our part-time mental health resource coordinator, the AmeriCorps Housing Resource Navigator would not replace the work of existing staff. Instead, the Housing Resource Navigator would help elevate our existing services through a dedicated focus on housing.

The department will ensure the Housing Resource Navigator will have a full caseload with opportunities for one-to-one meetings through the utilization of existing partnerships, the creation of new partnerships, and through potential leads identified during Roseville Police officers' day-to-day interactions and observations throughout Roseville. Police Departments have a unique advantage to identifying potential participants due to the nature of multiple staff members actively observing the community and operating 24 hours a day and never closing.

Currently, the Community Action Team is actively partnering with the Metro Transit Homeless Action Team, Peoples, Inc., Roseville Schools, Northeast Youth and Family Services, Karen Organization of Minnesota, Ramsey County Human Services, Source Minnesota, Bridging MN, Faith Based Organizations, Roseville Visitors Association, Hotel Staff, Multifamily Dwelling Management Staff, and other local non-profits, and human service providers. Additionally, the

39 Housing Resource Navigator will have access to other internal departments to include Parks and Recreation, Community
40 Development, and City Administration (Volunteer Coordinator, Equity and Inclusion Manager).

41
42 The position will establish a relationship with each individual on their caseload and will work with that individual to assess
43 their unique needs, set goals, and sit side-by-side to help navigate resources to overcome barriers and ultimately achieve their
44 goals. As AmeriCorps members, Heading Home Corps Housing Resource Navigators will serve 40 hours a week, September
45 2021 through July 2022. Navigators receive a stipend of \$750 every two weeks, individual health insurance (monthly
46 premium 100% paid), and up to an additional \$6,345 for tuition or student loans.

47 **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

48 From September 2021 through July 2022, Heading Home Corps Housing Resource Navigators receive a stipend of \$750
49 every two weeks, individual health insurance (monthly premium 100% paid), and up to an additional \$6,345 for tuition or
50 student loans through the AmeriCorps program. To fully operate this new initiative, Heading Home Corps has requested any
51 sites, including Roseville, to contribute \$10,000 in operating costs if possible.

52 **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

53 Staff recommends Council approval to authorize the Roseville Police Department to enter into a partnership with
54 AmeriCorps in hosting a Heading Home Corps Housing Navigator from September 2021 through July 2020 and to
55 contribute \$10,000 toward start-up costs related to operating this valuable new initiative.

56 **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

57 The police department is seeking Council authorization to enter into a partnership with AmeriCorps allowing Roseville to
58 become the site of an innovative new initiative, working alongside the newly implemented Police Community Action Team
59 to help members of the community navigate resources and overcome barriers to safe and stable housing furthering the
60 Roseville Police Department's mission to provide public safety services for the City of Roseville.

61
62

Prepared by: Chief Erika Scheider
Attachment: Housing Resource Navigator job description



Heading Home Corps

Position Description

Position Title: Housing Resource Navigator

Reports To: Site Supervisor and Program Manager

Service Position Summary: The Housing Resource Navigator is placed at a service site to support individuals experiencing homelessness - navigating resources and supports to secure safe and stable housing. The position will establish a relationship with each individual on their caseload and will work with that individual to assess their unique needs, set goals, and sit side-by-side to help navigate resources to overcome barriers and ultimately achieve their goals. This is an AmeriCorps service member position with the AmeriCorps program, Heading Home Corps.

Essential Functions:

- Work with individuals to actively address systemic inequities related to housing and housing resources by identifying and dismantling barriers within their service site's processes as well as navigating external barriers embedded in existing assistance systems.
- Create a welcoming environment to greet individuals seeking assistance, and work to establish a relationship with each individual using a person-centered approach.
- Conduct an initial interview with each individual to identify needs and preferences.
- Use information from the initial interview to help participants apply for public assistance programs.
- Support participants in setting housing-related goals and developing a plan of action to reach those goals including helping participants complete applications for housing and doing research with participants regarding housing options.
- Research and navigate resources that promote long-term stability in housing, including but not limited to, employment support, benefits eligibility and access, healthcare access, mental and/or chemical health referrals. Sit side-by-side with the individual to secure access to these resources, removing as many barriers as possible.
- Serve as a liaison between the participant and the systems they are accessing, as necessary.
- Track progress of plan and provide individualized support, as needed for success.
- Report data in online systems in a timely and accurate manner.
- Maintain participant confidentiality at all times.
- Work collaboratively with other individuals who are helping participants with their goals (e.g., social service agencies, shelter providers).
- Participate in training sessions and meetings, as required.
- Assist with statewide preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters which includes supporting organizations and communities in disaster relief activities related to COVID-19 closures and social distancing procedures.

Secondary Functions:

- Act as a housing advocate and support service recipients who are accessing housing as needed.
- Attend service site-sponsored activities to represent Heading Home Corps.
- Recruit and coordinate volunteers to support participants in their goals, as needed.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be 18 years of age by your start date; a US citizen, national, or legal permanent resident alien; and a high school graduate (or equivalent).
- Must pass mandatory background checks conducted by the program.
- Must not have served four or more prior terms of service with AmeriCorps State or National.

- Willingness to commit to a full term of service.
- Demonstrated English proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking.
- Strong written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills.
- Experience with professional computer skills and confidence using computers. Comfort and experience using Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel), completing internet searches and navigating resources online, completing data entry, experience with using e-mail regularly, including sending attachments, comfort with database and software use, and experience with using videoconferencing software and attending training online.
- Desire to affect systems change at the ground level; ability to connect the small details to the bigger picture.
- Ability to build relationships and work with people of different cultures and backgrounds.
- Access to regular, reliable transportation.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Lived experience with housing insecurity

Heading Home Corps will not discriminate for or against any AmeriCorps service member or applicant on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, age, or any other category protected by law.

Reasonable accommodations provided upon request. This document is available in alternative formats.