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Rico,

Thank you for the opportunity to share and offer additional clarification. As you may remember from our discussion at the mayor's office on October 28th, it was always our goal to communicate the details of Metro Rapid Response Funding (MRRF) with the HPC and the CoC at the next scheduled meeting. While these additional funds are not a part of CoC funding, we still felt it was important for our community partners to understand how they are intended to work. Below is an outline of our office's corrections to the Nashville Scene article, an overview of the MRRF program, and our responses to the questions you submitted.

Requested Corrections on October 28, 2025

As far as the article is concerned, it's important to note that the Nashville Scene article "[City Records Show 'Non-Traditional' Housing Program Expanding Under OHS Director](#)" published on October 28th mixes 2 different Metro funding streams. We communicated these inaccuracies directly to the reporter before the article was published and again with the editor and reporter after publishing. Below is the information that was shared with the Scene that has not yet been corrected in the article:

1. The \$2.4 million in MRRF funding referenced in the Scene's lede was ***not*** used to rehouse these families last year. Last year, we exclusively used ***bridge funding*** (Emergency Specific Assistance to Individuals) for those families. The \$2.4 million in MRRF funding was not made available to us until this fiscal year, July 1. These funds offer relief to the overall Housing Crisis Resolution system, Metro Departments, and district Council Members.
2. OHS did not hand-pick these individuals. The largest and only emergency shelter for most families, The Nashville Rescue Mission reached out to the Office of Homeless Services asking for help while in a capacity crisis. They shared a list of families identified as long lengths of stay in shelter and large families.
3. Two clients chose to find their own housing after rental assistance was phased out. They could afford to pay their own rent, which should be celebrated. For this reason, they no longer met HUD's definition of homelessness and did not qualify for a voucher. When they did not qualify, Metro helped subsidize their deposit and a portion of their rent.
4. Dedicated CoC-funded programs are required to receive all referrals through Coordinated Entry. Metro funding has no such requirement. Metro reserves the right to act swiftly on behalf of our citizens, Metro Departments, and district Council Members in case of an emergency. Nonetheless, OHS utilized the CE tool, the VI-SPDAT. As such, the CE process was not bypassed because it does not apply in this case.

Metro Rapid Response Funding (see attached)

OHS consulted with HUD TA, NAEH, and sister cities on the MRRF design to ensure flexibility to respond to crises. Operating an initial pilot allows us to deploy funds quickly, addressing infrastructure concerns and resolving gaps in timeline issues. As we move forward in launching our pilot for Metro Rapid Response Funding (MRRF), your remaining questions may be addressed in the attached one-page document.

Responses to Request for Clarification

1. Program Description, Goals & Objectives: See MRRF attachment
2. Total Number of Households Served: Thus far, MRRF has been used to help house 7 individuals
3. Funding Sources Used: Families referenced in the article that were assisted in Fiscal Year 2025 were assisted using **Bridge Funding** (Emergency Specific Assistance to Individuals). Separately, the Office of Homeless Services was allocated \$2.4 million in **Metro Rapid Response Funding** (MRRF) through the Fiscal Year 2026 Metro Budgeting process, after being included in the Mayor's Proposed Budget and approved by Metro Council on June 17, 2025.
4. Intended Duration for the Initiative: MRRF was approved for the FY2026 Budget, which means that the funds are expected to be expensed by June 30, 2026. The Office of Homeless Services hopes that positive impact of this unprecedented investment will allow this type of initiative to be renewed for future budgets.
5. Approval & Authorization Process: MRRF funding was approved and authorized via Metro's Budget Process, which is outlined [here](#). MRRF funds were included in the Mayor's Recommended Budget and highlighted at the State of Metro Address on May 1st. Metro Council approved the city's final budget for 2026, which included MRRF, on June 17th, 2025.
6. Presentations Regarding MRRF Funding: MRRF was presented to Metro Council Operating Budget Hearings on May 12th. April Calvin referenced the request for MRRF in the Metro Budget at the Homelessness Planning Council in May 2025. Additionally, MRRF was discussed at the July Housing Opportunity Committee meeting in discussions of the need for flexible funding pools to address Action 28c of the Unified Housing Strategy.
7. Fiscal and Programmatic Oversight: The Office of Homeless Services works closely with the Mayor's Office, the Office of Management and Budget, the Finance Department, and Metro Council to ensure all line items within our operating budget are expensed and implanted appropriately. Additionally, the Office of Homeless Services' Finance and Administration Team regularly monitors our budget and expenses, ensures that payments are made to landlords, service providers, and vendors in a timely manner, and meets with representatives from Metro Finance and Procurement. Landlord relations are the primary responsibility of the Office's Landlord Engagement team, including responding to requests for landlord incentives, furniture assistance, tenant mediation, etc. Service provider contracts, including those providing supportive services to households that have been recently housed, are overseen by the Office's Planning & Research team, which meets with providers bi-weekly and recently conducted on-site monitoring visits.
8. MRRF & Coordinated Entry: The Metro Office of Homeless Services (OHS) serves as the Coordinated Entry (CE) Lead Agency for the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care. Programs funded through the Continuum of Care or Emergency Solutions Grants are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to accept referrals from the Coordinated Entry System (CES). OHS only receives Continuum of Care funding for its role as the Collaborative Applicant, Coordinated Entry, and HMIS Leads. Other components of our office's budget, including MRRF, are Metro funds that are not required to utilize the Coordinated Entry process. Instead, the Office of Homeless Services hopes that these funds can help add relief by providing flexible, non-traditional support to respond more

nimbly to address emerging needs. Thus, the Office of Homeless Services utilizes the Coordinated Entry Vulnerability Assessment to verify that MRRF funds are being deployed to serve neighbors with high vulnerability.

9. Reporting to the HPC: The Homelessness Planning Council is the governing board for the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care. The HPC is not the oversight board for the Office of Homeless Services, since our office reports directly to the mayor. Per ordinance BL2018-199, the HPC “shall be empowered to make decisions and recommendations as the governance board for the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care. That same ordinance specifies that OHS “shall provide staff and resources to assist the HPC in carrying out duties and responsibilities that are established by the ordinance. Per amendment #2 to bl2021-971, the ordinance establishing the Office of Homeless Services, “the director of the Office of Homeless Services shall be appointed by the mayor and subjected to the civil service provisions of [the Metro] charter.” The Office of Homeless Services provides regularly reports to the Homelessness Planning Council regarding its duties as the Collaborative Applicant, Coordinated Entry, and HMIS lead. Additionally, Director Calvin provides a monthly report to the Homelessness Planning Council to highlight the range of efforts our office is engaging in system-wide to help end homelessness in our community. Although the Homelessness Planning Council does not oversee MRRF funding, we recognize the need to highlight this pilot program to help show the community the importance of increasing funding to address key barriers in rehousing those experiencing homelessness. Thus, our Office is committed to providing a detailed update on the roll out of MRRF funding in the November HPC meeting.
10. There was miscommunication between the landlord and the service provider that agreed to provide the rental assistance. When that happened, OHS stepped in to rectify the situation and paid the landlord to assist the clients in maintaining their housing

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