



October 14, 2021

Alderman Michael Murphy
Chairman, Finance and Personnel Committee
Common Council, City of Milwaukee

Dear Committee Chairman Murphy,

We are reaching out in support of proposal 34 for the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds (sponsored by Alderman Johnson), which will provide operating funds over four years for the Milwaukee Rental Housing Resource Center (RHRC). As the convening agency and co-partners of the RHRC, we are seeing first-hand the impact of this innovative collaboration to prevent eviction and increase access to rent assistance, mediation and legal services, and other housing stability resources.

We deeply appreciate the inclusion of the RHRC in this American Rescue Plan Act proposal, which will help ensure the Center's sustainability over time. The nine co-partners of the RHRC not only connect residents to immediate, eviction intervention services but they also work together strategically to improve the rental housing system. In the last year, the RHRC has built a "Triage Team" of five staff that have served 3,500 people via in-person visits and the website since launch in late 2020.

Co-partners and the Triage Team also work proactively with the courts to review filings and ensure those at imminent risk of eviction are connected to resources. Our secondary focus is on helping people with relocation and finding stable housing. Additionally, RHRC co-partners have worked with large landlords to use approaches such as mediation and coordination with rent assistance before filing for eviction. This is all part of our larger work around eviction diversion. Additionally, we have been active participants in the White House convenings on eviction prevention, and with our participation in the National League of Cities (NLC) Eviction Learning Lab, we are able to access best practices that inform and strengthen our work. In fact, the NLC will be featuring the work of the RHRC in an upcoming blog post.

We believe that the RHRC is emerging nationally as a model program that provides services to both tenants and landlords with the goal of decreasing the disparate impacts of eviction. Its collaborative structure is unique and brings a broad set of stakeholders to this important work that will increase housing stability for Milwaukee residents.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions; we welcome the opportunity to share more about the RHRC. Sincerely,

Kristi Luzar,
Executive Director, UEDA (RHRC Convener) | kristi@uedawi.org

cc: Milwaukee Common Council Members
RHRC Co-Partners



www.RentHelpMKE.org

ABOUT UEDA

The Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin (UEDA) is a 501(c)(3) membership association dedicated to facilitating effective, cross-sector collaboration, meaningful connections, and strengthening individual and organizational capacity in Wisconsin's community and economic development sector. Our vision is that the members and communities we serve are inspired and thriving, with equitable access to investment and opportunity. Learn more at www.uedawi.org.