

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: March 17, 2025

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Shereka Floyd, Housing Programs Manager
Shantell McClam, Neighborhood Services Director
Angel Wright-Lanier, Assistant City Manager

Council Action Requested:

Resolution Authorizing Funding to Family Services, Inc. for a Non-Congregate Emergency Shelter

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods

Strategic Objective: Expand Housing Assistance Programs

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

Family Services, Inc. (FSI) provides emergency shelter and services to victims and survivors of domestic violence. Its current shelter building was built in 1929 and opened as an emergency shelter in 1988. It can normally serve up to 36 people at a time in traditional dorm-style rooms with shared hall bathrooms and one shared kitchen, referred to as congregate shelter. FSI has seen an unprecedented increase in requests for shelter recently, and the shelter currently operates at capacity. The building also has ongoing maintenance issues, including water damage.

Over time FSI has seen the needs of victims of domestic violence change, including more arriving with children, and has determined that non-congregate shelter is a more appropriate way to serve them. A non-congregate shelter would contain small apartment-style rooms that could each accommodate a family. FSI plans to demolish its existing shelter and construct a new 30,000 square foot shelter that will double the current capacity to serve guests in immediate crisis for up to 90-day stays and contain units where guests could remain up to six months. The architectural design will be trauma-informed with the goal of creating physical spaces that promote safety, well-being, and healing. FSI is requesting \$1,500,000 from the City of Winston-Salem toward replacement of its emergency shelter. The total project cost is \$10,834,500.

Committee Action:

Committee	Committee of the Whole 03/17/2025	Action	Approval
For	7-Yea 1-Excused (CM Scippio)	Against	

Remarks:

Congress appropriated \$5 billion in HOME Investment Partnership funds through the American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP funds) to provide housing, services, and shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations. The City of Winston-Salem has been allocated \$4,887,567 in HOME-ARP funds. Non-congregate shelter is an eligible use of HOME-ARP funds, and individuals or families fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking is a qualifying population. The new shelter will be required to comply with HOME-ARP requirements for 15 years from project completion.

The resolution to provide \$1,500,000 in HOME-ARP funds to Family Services, Inc. for the replacement of its existing emergency shelter with a non-congregate emergency shelter is presented for consideration. The commitment is subject to attainment of all other sources of financing, availability of City funds, and completion of construction in compliance with HOME-ARP provisions. A project budget ordinance is also attached.