



REPORT TO TOWN BOARD

FROM: Kyle Patterson, Township Supervisor

DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2024

SUBJECT: EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1202

A. INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this resolution is to authorize the City of Champaign Township Supervisor to execute a subrecipient agreement for the Supporting Municipalities for Asylum Seekers Services III (SMASS III) Grant with the City of Champaign for grant period July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025.

B. ACTION REQUESTED:

Administration recommends that the Township Board pass a resolution allowing the City of Champaign Township to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the City of Champaign for the use of SMASS III grant funds.

C. SUMMARY:

Administration is proposing that the Township enter into a subrecipient agreement with the City of Champaign to administer SMASS III funds in the amount of \$50,000.00.

D. BACKGROUND:

1. In 2023, the Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus issued a Request for Proposals for funding under the Supporting Municipalities for Asylum Seekers Services (“SMASS”) program. The Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus is the administrator of the SMASS program funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services. Grants were made available to municipalities in Illinois or community-based organizations with the support of a municipality.
2. In August of 2024, the City of Champaign applied for SMASS funding, playing the role of the lead entity. The City of Champaign Township is partnering with the City of Champaign to be a subrecipient of SMASS III funds. With the use of SMASS III funds, the City of Champaign Township will expand existing programs to better serve the homeless population as well as asylum seekers. The City of Champaign Township will create a new leg of Rental Assistance to address housing insecurity for asylum seekers. Rental Assistance may be awarded in an amount equal to 1-3 months of a person’s monthly rent, based on need, to individuals and households that meet the definition of asylum seeker as provided by SMASS guidelines. City of Champaign Township will expand its budget for food and transportation for those receiving shelter services at Strides. Transportation funds may be used to reunite individuals/households with family or friends outside of Champaign County.

3. The City of Champaign Township will attend quarterly meetings with the City of Champaign to ensure timely deployment of services and payment procedures. City of Champaign Township will submit monthly reports to the City of Champaign and expend all funds by June 30, 2025. Funds are restricted to persons experiencing homelessness and/or asylum seekers and must be expended by June 30, 2025. SMASS defines an asylum seeker as a southern border arrival after August 1, 2022. A summary of planned activities and expected accomplishments are detailed here and in Table 1.

E. IMPACTS:

As identified above and in Table 1, there are three areas that SMASS funds would impact, Rental Assistance, food assistance and wrap around services in the form of transportation assistance. City of Champaign Township anticipates providing rental assistance to 7 households representing 15 individuals with the use of \$21,500.00. The \$24,500.00 budget for food will allow Township to purchase a food grade storage unit, pay for catering for three community resource events and make available snacks at each monthly guest forum as well as purchase additional food for Strides shelter guests. Finally, an additional \$4,000.00 will be used to purchase transportation for guests of Strides and/or asylum seekers with a target number of 20 individuals being assisted.

TABLE 1: SMASS Program Description and Accomplishments

Activities	Budget	Number of Individuals Assisted
Rental Assistance	\$21,500.00	15
Food	\$24,500.00	300
Transportation	\$4,000.00	20

F. CONCLUSION:

Approving this resolution will allow the City of Champaign Township to move closer to its mission and vision by expanding service provisions to some of the most vulnerable residents of Champaign County.

City of Champaign Township

By: _____

Name: Kyle Patterson

Title: Township Supervisor