

RED WING AREA RESOURCE CENTER

The Red Wing Area Resource Center idea came about by conversations stemming from unmet needs of the guests of Hope and Harbor Homeless Shelter. Hope and Harbor is open 6 PM-8AM and provides overnight shelter, meals, access to resources, etc. The problem is Hope and Harbor is open overnight yet most of the resource's guests need to access in order to end their homeless situation are only open during the day. So, what was happening is guests would apply for programs such as health care, housing, etc. in the evenings with the help of the overnight advocates of Hope and Harbor but were not able to communicate with those at the County, etc during the day for questions on their applications.

The idea of the resource center is simple. Provide a space where individuals can come to access all the community resources. Have advocates in place to assist guests in applying and accessing the resources. Identify for the agencies providing the resources the barriers individuals face when accessing the resources. For instance, an individual who needs food resources but works Tues-Sunday cannot access the local food shelf as they are open Tues/Thurs/Friday. This creates a barrier and eliminates that individual from accessing the food needed. The resource center would help that individual work with the food shelf to get the food resource. It would also track how many are facing similar barriers and work with the agency to remove such barriers. It also will offer assistance in completing applications for resources. Often the applications themselves are daunting to an individual and they will not seek the resource simply because the paperwork involved seems to be overwhelming.

The resource center will be a place to build community. We were not meant to be solitary creatures but many of our community members spend a lot of their time alone. This leads to increased mental health issues. By building a community individuals will be empowered to fulfill their needs and find resources to improve their everyday lives.

The resource center is the 1st step to establishing a Hub Community. A Hub Community is a research proven way of providing multiple resources from community agencies in an unduplicated manner. It provides a way to connect with the right resources for long-term solutions vs short term fixes. By providing resources/access to resources in a centralized location it provides "one stop shopping" to those seeking resources. By providing one set of enrollment forms, etc. it reduces the need to complete paperwork for multiple agencies and thus reduces the number of times those seeking help need to "tell their story" in order to get the help needed.

The resource center will offer assistance in seeking resources in:

Mental Health

Drug/Alcohol Counseling

Health Care/Postpartum Care/ Dental Care

Employment/Education for Employment

Food Resources

Domestic Violence

Eviction Mitigation

Homelessness/Housing Resources

Financial Assistance

Financial Literacy

Transportation

Other resource opportunities as they are identified as needed.

Opportunity Center

Community Partners:

Mental Health

Goodhue County
Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center
Nystrom and Associates

Drug/Alcohol Counseling

Midwest Recovery
Common Ground

Care Clinic

Health/dental care
Interpretation services
Legal assistance

Vocational Rehabilitation

Employment services, job coaching

RW Food Shelf

(bring a small food shelf to Opportunity Center)

Local restaurants/food retailers

Provide donated goods (day old, etc)

Hope Coalition

Domestic Violence

United Way

Grant funding/collaboration in services

Express Employment

Provide job resources

Three Rivers Western Community Action

Homeless housing advocate

HRA

Housing resources/subsidized housing programs

Goodhue County
Financially support center

City of Red Wing
Financially support center

SERVICES OFFERED AT OPPORTUNITY CENTER

Housing assistance

Assistance navigating finding housing/assistance in completing applications for housing/ assistance in obtaining paperwork to support housing applications/ referrals to various housing resources

Rental Resource Management

Serve as a rental resource hub. Landlords could send information on available units/ guests could browse available units, advocates could match available units to those looking, advocates can assist in educating guests as to which rental assistance programs they are eligible to apply

Eviction Mitigation services

Help guests expunge eviction from rental record if appropriate

Rent Mitigation services

Help bridge concern of landlord to rent to guest/offer incentives such as double deposit, etc to give landlord a reason to give guest a chance.

Appeal advocate:

Assist guests in appeal process when denied rental unit. (In talking w/new HRA Director Kurt Keehn, he stated an appeal is more likely to be granted if the individual has a strong support team behind them).

Donations:

Work with local restaurants/gas stations, vendors for items such as snacks, food, supplies to aid basic needs of guests

Financial Literacy

Provide financial literacy courses to guests to get a better understanding of why budgeting, etc is important to sustainable housing

Provide a permanent overnight location for Hope and Harbor (open Sept-March)

Hope and Harbor would staff hours of operation 6 PM-8AM and use local churches and businesses for dinner donation

Provide place for guests to complete various applications such as MnSure, County application for food support, cash assistance, case management, mental health services, Social Security, Social Security Disability etc. Provide support in completing applications. Provide a place for agencies to be able to follow up w/ guests to get application(s) to completed stage (place where guests can receive email, make/receive phone calls, etc).

Alcohol/drug/mental health services:

Provide resources for guests to get help with addiction counseling and mental health assistance.

Provide a place to build community. We are NOT solitary creatures and we all do better when part of a community. Allow all to feel a part of a community.

Establish as "Give Back" program. Encourage guests to volunteer 4 hrs a month at a agency/non-profit. Ex shovel sidewalks at churches, rake leaves, simple maintenance, etc. Allow guests to use their talents to help others and to take pride and giving back

Transportation

Provide bus tokens for guests to go to medical appointments

Provide bus tokens for work until 1st paycheck is received

RWOC
Start Up Budget

ITEM	AMOUNT
Computer Lab	
2 computers for staff/1 for CFO/1 for guests	\$3,500
TV	\$350
Pool/Ping Pong table	\$250
Furniture for lounge area	\$2,000
Misc supplies (coffe pot, utensils, etc)	\$1,000
Consultant fee	\$7,000
grant writing/meetings w/city and county, hiring and training of staff, securing items for center, etc	
Database	\$1,500
TOTAL:	\$15,600

RWOC
Operating Budget

ITEM	AMOUNT
Staffing	\$66,000
Lead staff \$18 30 hrs	
Assistant Lead \$16.00 30 hrs	
3 days a week	
Includes 60 hrs of vacation per staff and payroll taxes	
CFO	\$19,500
Rent to Christ Episcopal Church	\$12,000
Food	\$6,500
snacks/paper products/coffee	
Dedicated phone lines 2 lines	\$2,400
Streaming service for TV	\$750
Internet	\$2,000
Funds to obtain vital records	\$3,500
PO Box	\$150
Bus tokens	\$2,500
Office supplies/postage	\$2,000
Misc supplies	\$1,500
Insurance	\$2,500
TOTAL	\$121,300

Not included:
Database fee