



# A HOME FOR EVERYONE IN DEKALB

A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE ON HOMELESSNESS

February 9, 2024

Tara M. Smith – Chief of Staff  
Office of Commissioner Robert Patrick – District 1  
DeKalb County Board of Commissioners 1300  
Commerce Dr.  
Decatur, Georgia 30032

Ms. Smith,

Thank you for connecting with A Home For Everyone In DeKalb (*A Home*) in a collaborative effort to be responsive to the needs of unhoused and low income neighbors in District 1; and thereby, also improve the quality of life for the wider constituency of your district and DeKalb County as a whole. *A Home* is a 501(c)(3) with a mission of aiding those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and food insecurity in DeKalb County by offering supportive services and partnering with community and government groups to provide shelter and housing assistance, and advocacy for more affordable housing. As our intentional naming suggests, our vision is for there to be safe, affordable, and stable housing for everyone in DeKalb County.

We are requesting a funding allocation from Commissioner Patrick in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be utilized to support the following initiative:

**DeKalb Advocacy and Solutions for Homelessness (D.A.S.H.) Pilot Project:**

**D.A.S.H.** will be a pilot project with two part time two-person outreach teams of compassionate navigators assisting those who are unhoused to get off the street and get connected with resources offered by *A Home's* extensive and proven collaborative network of volunteers and donors, community advocates, partner organizations, and other stakeholders invested in solution-oriented initiatives.

**D.A.S.H.** will canvas areas frequented by those who are unhoused/homeless in DeKalb County with a mission of:

- a) Positive engagement through relationship building, as well as provision of and navigation to temporary shelter and housing resources offered through *A Home* and our collaborative partners; along with
- b) Remediation of unsightly discarded debris left behind by those who are unhoused

Ideally, each **D.A.S.H.** team will be comprised of a contracted experienced case worker (driver) partnered with someone who is either currently unhoused or recently housed as a workforce opportunity to self-sufficiency. The unhoused apprentice(s) would receive training and a work incentive as compensation, and when possible, a space in our subsidized transitional housing program.

The Budget for the DeKalb Advocacy and Solutions for Homelessness (**D.A.S.H.**) teams is outlined below:

<b>D.A.S.H. Line-Item Breakout</b>	<b>Expense Amount</b>
Start-up Costs (Includes Vehicle Purchase of a Pick-up Truck or Van - \$25,000; Tax, Tag, Title, and Insurance \$3,000; Logo Placards or Vehicle Wrap \$2,000)	\$30,000.00
Staffing (Includes payment for 2 part-time contracted case workers/drivers and work incentive initiative for 2 unhoused or recently housed apprentices 1 day; 1 afternoon/evening)	\$50,000.00
Supplies and Supportive Resources (Includes transportation assistance such as MARTA, rapid housing assistance, hotel vouchers, dedicated cell phone, etc.)	\$10,000.00
Program Administration Cost (Includes Program and Budget oversight and reporting)	<u>\$10,000.00</u>

<b>Total Budget</b>
---------------------

<u>\$100,000.00</u>
---------------------

The requested funding allocation will allow *A Home* to continue building capacity in the ecosystem of those who are unhoused and the resulting impacts on the surrounding communities. It is our hope that this request will provide the support needed to serve as a measurable touchpoint for 300-500 individuals. Thank you kindly for your consideration!

*Tammy Hughes*

**Tammy Hughes, PhD, MSW**

Executive Director

A Home For Everyone In DeKalb

Direct: (770)398-1288; Cell (404)431-2968

[tammy@ahomeforeveryoneindekalb.org](mailto:tammy@ahomeforeveryoneindekalb.org) [ahomeforeveryoneindekalb.org](http://ahomeforeveryoneindekalb.org)