



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#26-0165

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: April 21, 2026

TITLE: Motion Approving a Not-for-Profit Service Agreement between the City of
Fort Lauderdale and HomesUnited Ministries, Inc. for Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Housing Program Services in the Amount of \$125,000 -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Not-for-Profit Service Agreement valued at \$125,000 between the City of Fort Lauderdale ("City") and HomesUnited Ministries, Inc., ("HomesUnited") to provide shared housing and supportive mental health services to individuals experiencing homelessness. The Agreement will be valid retroactively from April 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026. Approval will authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and any amendments thereto.

Background

In alignment with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 City Commission Priority to provide Homelessness Resources, the City of Fort Lauderdale coordinates services to assist neighbors experiencing homelessness and improve the overall perception of safety for all our neighbors. Working with service providers such as HomesUnited provides the City's Police Department Homeless Outreach Team, Co-Responder team, Fire Rescue Mobile Integrated Health team, and the Housing and Community Development Division's Homeless Initiatives team with a resource to refer individuals experiencing homelessness to if individuals are willing to accept assistance and qualify for services being offered.

On December 17, 2024, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 24-269 (Exhibit 1) authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families (DCF) for a Mental Health and Substance Abuse Housing Program in the amount of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).

On March 4, 2025, using the DCF grant funds, the City Commission approved FY 2025 Not-for-Profit Service Agreements between the City of Fort Lauderdale, HomesUnited (Exhibit 2), and Fellowship Recovery Community Organization, Inc. to provide shared housing opportunities, supportive mental health services and substance use stabilization,

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residential recovery, and support services to individuals experiencing homelessness. Each service provider received an equal allocation of \$125,000 to administer the city's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Housing Programs. On June 30, 2025, the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families funding expired.

On June 30, 2025 (CAM #25-0678), the City Commission approved an amended agreement (executed on June 16, 2025) extending the Not-for-Profit Service Agreement between the City of Fort Lauderdale and Fellowship Recovery Community Organization, Inc. for one (1) additional year, covering the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. While HomesUnited's performance resulted in a commendable housing success rate of 70.73% (twenty-nine (29) out of forty-one (41) participants were successfully housed or reunified) within a three-and-a-half-month timeframe, the City did not request an extension of the service agreement with HomesUnited to allow them time to implement enhanced safety and operational safeguards. These included requiring clinical behavioral health assessments prior to participant placement and expanding daytime programming to better engage participants thereby reducing idle time.

In response to the City's recommendation to HomesUnited to bolster safety and operational guardrails, every individual referred to HomesUnited will undergo a comprehensive clinical behavioral health assessment prior to placement in their program. This safeguard is intended to ensure that each participant is appropriately placed, matched in a house where they are most likely to succeed, while receiving support services tailored to their needs. To minimize idle time of program participants, HomesUnited has expanded daytime programming for participants including structured activities and skill-building opportunities. In addition, at the discretion of the City's Police Department, criminal background checks will be run to prevent placement of individuals with a history of violent crimes, significant assault or battery charges, or sexual offenses.

Unhoused individuals deemed appropriate via behavioral health assessment for voluntary admission to HomesUnited shall receive medication management as clinically determined by Henderson Behavioral Health (through its partnership with HomesUnited) and will be expected to actively participate toward achieving their treatment goals for up to ninety (90)-days. At the ninety (90)-day mark, participants demonstrating marked improvement will be assessed for an extension not to exceed an additional ninety (90)-days (maximum treatment stay up to one hundred eighty (180)-days as deemed appropriate). Temporary mental health respite or transitional housing placement and support services provided by HomesUnited will be billed to the City on a monthly basis at a rate of fifty dollars (\$50) per day per participant. Transportation expenses incurred by participants will also be billed to the City monthly on a cost-reimbursement basis.

The performance measures within this contract include:

- Sixty percent (60%) of participants remain enrolled in the program thirty (30) days after intake.
- Fifty percent (50%) of participants are in stable housing (permanent, transitional,

or alternative program) or have been reunified with family or friends by contract expiration.

- Fifty percent (50%) of participants are self-paying by ninety (90) days after program entry.

Referrals to the program will be provided by the Housing and Community Development Division Homeless Initiatives team via Community Court, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Fire Rescue’s Mobile Integrated Health team, and the Police Department’s Co-Responder team.

Approval of the agreement with HomesUnited will resume providing shared housing and mental health support services. These services will include assisting individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Fort Lauderdale with obtaining identification documents, applying for federal benefits (as applicable), accessing housing navigation, legal aid, and employment assistance, receiving case management, and ensuring access to daily meals. The primary goal is to help participants achieve stable and sustainable housing, increase self-sufficiency, and support overall public health, safety, and welfare in furtherance of a legitimate public and municipal purpose.

Resource Impact

There is a fiscal impact to the General Fund in the amount of \$125,000 in FY 2026. Funding is budgeted and available in the listed account.

Funds available as of March 17, 2026					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-001-3221-564-30-3199	Homelessness Initiatives	Services/Materials/ Other Professional Services	\$1,100,170	\$636,785	\$125,000
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$125,000

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2026 Commission Priority, advancing Homelessness Response

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Housing Focus area, Goal 2: Enable housing options for all income levels.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are FTL.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Resolution 24-269

Exhibit 2 – HomesUnited FY 2025 Not-for-Profit Service Agreement

Exhibit 3 – HomesUnited FY 2026 Not-for-Profit Service Agreement

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Housing and Community Development

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