

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County to mobilize funding for the transition of homeless population beneath the Marquette Interchange.**

*The transition plan includes funding for temporary residences.*

[10/07/2019] Milwaukee, WI—United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County is contributing \$75,000 to assist in the transition of the homeless population living underneath highway I-794 beneath the Marquette Interchange. The state of Wisconsin recently announced that approximately 90 individuals living in the area will have until October 31, 2019 to vacate the premises.

“While United Way has launched an initiative to end family homelessness by 2025, we could not ignore the people currently experiencing homelessness living outside in tents,” said Nicole Angresano, vice president of Community Impact for United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County. “In partnership with Milwaukee County’s Housing Division, we will support the dignified and temporary housing of up to 90 adults, all of whom will be offered voluntary case management and have an opportunity to be assessed for housing.”

“United Way continues to be a phenomenal partner in addressing homelessness in our community,” said James Mathy, housing administrator for the Milwaukee County Housing Division. “Through our Housing First initiative, we will continue daily outreach to those at the encampment in an effort to quickly bring people indoors before the weather changes. The ultimate goal is always to find permanent housing for those that are outdoors. Housing ends homelessness.”

Housing assessment centers are currently being established allowing individuals the dignity of being indoors while they are assessed for their needs. United Way will assist in the funding needed to adequately staff these locations.

Milwaukee County has already provided one-on-one outreach assessments with the individuals living beneath the interchange to identify their specific housing and service needs. Outreach workers will be assigned to individuals in order to collaborate on moving logistics. The plan is to have everyone housed in the temporary centers within the next 3 - 4 weeks.

“United Way’s investment would cover anticipated staffing costs for the centers and other expenses related to establishing a new home or apartment,” said Angresano. The local American Red Cross has also offered to assist in the relocation, much in the way they do in the case of natural disasters.

Through the coordinated entry process, which United Way also supports, street outreach teams have been and will continue to assess people into appropriate permanent housing options.

#### **About United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County:**

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our local community. <http://www.unitedwayGMWC.org>