



**Monday, August 2, 2021**

## **Joint Request for Homeless Emergency Shelter Funding**

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Acadiana Regional Coalition on Homelessness and Housing (ARCH)'s collective mission is to ensure that everyone in Acadiana has access to safe, affordable, stable housing and that all episodes of homelessness are rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Unfortunately, due to COVID, and multiple hurricanes, many people in Acadiana are hurting. There has been a significant increase in homelessness and domestic violence, while concurrently, a dramatic decrease in available emergency shelter beds. We know that when the eviction moratorium ends in a few days, we will see even greater numbers of people left homeless. Resources are scarce, and we are already unable to meet the needs of everyone who is reaching out, asking for help.

The good news is that there are real, systemic solutions that could shape a future where those who are experiencing homelessness get the care and support that they need. ARCH and its partner agencies have been working together for months to develop these solutions. We have met regularly to share current data, discuss long term agency plans, exchange ideas, leverage expertise, and develop detailed plans for a path forward. As a multi-agency coalition, ARCH is prepared to collectively implement homeless emergency shelter solutions in Lafayette.

**Today, we ask that Lafayette Consolidated Government partner with this coalition to provide \$6.5 million for:**

- **A permanent, low-barrier, non-congregate homeless emergency shelter (\$5.5 million)**
  - \$3 million to acquire and rehabilitate a building for this use
  - \$2.5 million for 4 years of shelter operational support
  
- **Support for Faith House to provide safe shelter and resources for those fleeing domestic violence (\$1 million)**



The ARCH member agencies who have signed below are submitting this joint request for funding to reflect our unified determination that this is the best solution for addressing the crisis of homelessness in our community.

For more information, including shelter solution details, please contact Leigh Rachal, ARCH Executive Director ([arch@archacadiana.org](mailto:arch@archacadiana.org) / 337-967-0995).

Leigh Rachal, Executive Director  
Acadiana Regional Coalition  
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