

Resolution in Support of Full FY26 Funding for the Rising Hope Program

Ann Arbor Renters Commission

May 2025

WHEREAS, housing stability is a fundamental component of community well-being, public health, and economic mobility; and

WHEREAS, the Rising Hope Program has, over the past two years, supported over 171 households in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County through critical eviction prevention and housing stabilization services, including trauma-informed case management, peer support, rent and utility shut-off assistance, move-in support, and more; and

WHEREAS, nearly 70% of Rising Hope's services have focused on eviction prevention, with the remainder supporting new move-ins—providing essential intervention in a local housing crisis that disproportionately impacts individuals with prior justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, Rising Hope provides uniquely flexible, rapid-response assistance that complements existing programs and fills critical service gaps, helping ensure that vulnerable households receive timely support to maintain housing stability; and

WHEREAS, last year the City of Ann Arbor allocated \$500,000 from its Marijuana Excise Tax Rebate to fund this essential program for one year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025); and

WHEREAS, the City Administrator's proposed FY26 budget identifies approximately \$600,000 in unallocated Marijuana Excise Tax rebate funding for City Council's discretion; and

WHEREAS, Rising Hope has not yet been included in the proposed FY26 budget, and failure to secure ongoing support would disrupt or end services to households currently relying on this program for housing stability and eviction prevention; and

WHEREAS, investing the full \$616,000 in FY26 would allow a continuation of services furthering the City's equity goals and commitment to public safety, reentry support, and community resilience;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ann Arbor Renters Commission formally urges City Council to allocate the full \$616,000 in Marijuana Excise Tax Rebate funds to the Rising Hope Program for Fiscal Year 2026 (beginning July 1, 2025); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission recognizes Rising Hope as an evidence-based, community-driven model of housing stabilization and urges

the City to integrate this program into Ann Arbor's long-term affordable housing and homelessness prevention strategy