



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator

CC: Missy Stults, Sustainability & Innovations Director
Mariah Walton, Deputy City Administrator

SUBJECT: July 7, 2025 Council Agenda Response Memo

DATE: July 3, 2025

CA-7 - Resolution to Approve a Grant Agreement with the Ann Arbor Housing Development Corporation in the Amount of \$180,000.00 to Support the Transition of the Green Baxter Court Community Center to a Resilience Hub (\$180,000.00)

Question: With the City investing in the transition of Green Baxter Court into a resilience hub, will this site (and others in the network) be officially designated as warming and cooling centers by the City? Or will their designation during climate emergencies be determined by the communities they serve or individual site partners? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: The designation of Resilience Hubs as cooling or warming shelters will need to be determined by the communities they serve as well as by the individual site partners. Including these community centers as permanent warming and cooling locations, similar to libraries, would be beyond the scope of services provided by site partners and potentially disruptive to services (e.g., afterschool programming). However, in the past, Resilience Hub partners have voluntarily offered their spaces for broader community relief during severe weather events and pursuing MOU's for upscaling of services during certain disruptions is one of the things OSI is exploring with existing (and future) resilience hub collaborators.

Question: Beyond power backup and comfort, what specific services are expected to be available at these resilience hubs during climate or other emergencies such as food, charging stations, medical supplies, or referrals? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: In times of disruption, the critical care services provided by our Resilience Hub locations—such as food provisioning, after-school programming, mental health and human services, and housing assistance—remain essential. As we all know, the need for these services does not diminish during challenging times, but is often exacerbated. That is why we work with each resilience hub location to identify specifically what services they provide, what their vulnerabilities are, and what opportunities exist to reduce those vulnerabilities and enhance their built and operational resilience.

For example, not only do all of our existing hubs serve as community meeting spaces and provide program (e.g., afterschool or senior programming), many are food distribution sites, provide social service support and help accessing city and county programs, and help with mental and public health support. Additionally, Resilience Hubs also serve as trusted communication sources that share information regarding climate emergencies or other disruptions – such as poor air quality, extreme heat, extreme cold – and direct people to appropriate resources if the Hubs themselves are unable to provide what is needed. We expect our two new hubs to continue providing these types of services.

Our Resilience Hub Networks have also demonstrated the ability to quickly adapt and increase services in response to unprecedented disruptions. For example, during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Resilience Hubs effectively transitioned to functioning as structured remote-learning facilities when schools closed. This included providing access to Wi-Fi and distributing meals, among other vital services that were lost during school closures.

CA-8 - Resolution to Approve a Grant Agreement with Peace Neighborhood Center in the Amount of \$250,000.00 to Support Its Transition to a Resilience Hub (\$250,000.00)

Question: How will the City ensure these resilience hubs operate as part of a coordinated network? Will there be centralized communication, shared resources, or a mutual aid model across locations? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: OSI has committed to maintaining deep relationships with Ann Arbor's Resilience Hub Network and its service providers. Up until recently with the introduction of Peace Neighborhood Center as one of Ann Arbor's Resilience Hubs all of our Resilience Hubs were serviced by one of two organizations, Community Action Network (CAN) or the City of Ann Arbor. CAN, as an organization, shares internal resources such as staff, supplies, physical spaces, etc. The incorporation of a servicer outside of the CAN network provides Ann Arbor an opportunity to develop a framework in which these servicers can coordinate shared resources, relevant and accurate information during disruptions, and employ mutual aid models across our Resilience Hub.

Once our EPA grant is reinstated, one of the thrusts of that work is developing a regional resilience network that includes coordination of the hubs across the county. Together, the Hubs will help develop an activation guide to ensure consistency and mutual aid during sunny days as well as during times of disruption.

Question: How is OSI defining “resilience” in this context? Will these hubs also address social vulnerabilities such as housing insecurity and health access, or are they focused primarily on environmental infrastructure? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: OSI defines resilience as the ability to bounce forward, regardless of what disruption takes place. The selected locations and partners within Ann Arbor’s expanding Resilience Hub network consist of trusted community organizations that provide essential care services. Specifically, the Peace Neighborhood Center has been serving Ann Arbor residents for over 54 years, assisting families in need with various human, health, and family services. The Resilience Hub locations and service providers are chosen for the wraparound services they provide to the community. In this context, resilience refers to the ability to support those already engaged in providing vital services, giving them a longer runway to operate amid disruptions, whether caused by climate change or other factors. For more details on the services, including social services, provided by Peace Neighborhood Center, please see: <https://peaceneighborhoodcenter.org/programs/>. For more details about programs provided at Green Baxter Court, please see: <https://www.canwashtenaw.org/greenbaxtercourt>.