

# Utah Homelessness Council (UHC)

## Agenda Item - Executive Summary

### Purpose:

- Decision
  - Informational
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**Meeting Date:** August 10, 2023

**Subject:** Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Request for Code Blue Funding

**Submitted by:** Office of Homeless Services (office)

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### RELATED DOCUMENTS

Attachment A – DHHS Code Blue Alert Cost Breakdown

### SUMMARY

Per state code [35A-16-702](#), DHHS is required to monitor and evaluate forecasts and advisories produced by the National Weather Service, identify a code blue event, and issue a code blue alert to:

- a) the public at large;
- b) homeless shelters located within an affected county;
- c) local government entities located within an affected county;
- d) the office;
- e) any other relevant public or private entities that provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness within an affected county.

An affected county is defined as counties of the first, second, third, or fourth class.

Funding was not appropriated to DHHS during the 2023 legislative session to implement the requirements for the code blue alert process and systems.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The State Homelessness Coordinator and office recommend utilizing one-time funding for DHHS to implement the attached plan in FY23 and for DHHS to pursue funding for this purpose during the 2024 general legislative session.

## DHHS Code Blue Alert Cost Breakdown

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The following outlines anticipated costs and justification for DHHS to implement and maintain the Code Blue Alert initiative as defined in Utah Code 35A-16-701 "Code Blue Alert".

### **One Time Implementation Costs - \$20,386**

Develop interface with National Weather Service \$1,755

*Personnel costs to coordinate with the NWS staff to develop a daily reporting process that predicts which counties will experience temperatures of 15 degrees Fahrenheit or less, including wind chill, or other extreme weather conditions within 24 to 48 hours.*

Develop Code Blue Alert \$3,511

*Personnel costs to develop the Code Blue Alert message template and identity, register, and train local stakeholders in UNIS in order to receive Code Blue Alerts (estimate 922 new users). The new users will be categorized into messaging "groups" for each of the 29 counties.*

Develop a Public Notification Platform \$15,120

*Contractor fee to develop a webpage for DHHS to post daily notices regarding which counties are under a Code Blue Alert. Website will also include resources and information related to the implications of a Code Blue Alert.*

### **On-Going Operational Costs - \$28,834**

Maintenance of the UNIS Code Blue Alert Groups \$2,740

*Personnel costs to validate stakeholder contact information, as well as registration and training for new users in the event of turnover. The message template will be regularly evaluated for updates or improvements.*

Monitoring and issuing Code Blue Alerts \$6,410

*Personnel costs to monitor weather reports daily through the winter response period (October 15 through April 30) and issue alerts to the affected counties.*

Notification of the public \$7,524

*Personnel costs to update the Code Blue Alert website daily through the winter response period (October 15 through April 30) with the counties under Code Blue Alert. The website will be regularly evaluated for resource and information updates or improvements.*

Code Blue Alert Website Hosting \$5,400

*Contractor annual fee to host the Code Blue Alert website to facilitate public notification.*

UNIS Alert Messaging Costs \$6,190

*Contractor fee for text messaging and phone call alerts via UNIS at \$0.18 per message. Estimate 34,389 messages per year based on the average number of severe weather days by county and number of targeted stakeholders.*

FTE Associated Costs \$570

*Administrative costs calculated by actual FTE allocation by funding source. Includes HR, DTS, and OS&M expenses.*