

June 10, 2024 | Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority & YMCA of the Roses
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

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YMCA of the Roses selected as operator partner for 80 bed low-barrier emergency shelter set to open at Otterbein United Methodist Church in December 2024

On June 3, 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed between the Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority (Authority) and YMCA of the Roses (YMCA) following approval of the Board of Directors for each organization at their meetings on May 28, 2024, and May 20, 2024, respectively.

This MOU outlines key responsibilities related to the management, staffing, and funding of the emergency shelter, and is the first step in establishing a collaborative, year-round, long-term solution for low-barrier emergency shelter provision in the City of Lancaster since 2009. The emergency shelter will provide up to 80 beds for adults as well as restroom and shower facilities.

In addition to the work of the Authority, Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition (Coalition), and YMCA, the provider network for the existing homelessness response system will work with the low-barrier emergency shelter operated by the YMCA to assist in meeting the needs of unsheltered individuals in the community. The members of the Coalition will continue to provide supportive services referrals for employment, basic needs like community meals and clothing, physical and mental health, and addiction recovery.

Facility renovations are needed to ensure the space is safe for residential occupancy prior to the planned opening of the shelter in December 2024. These improvements include major investments in building systems such as HVAC improvements, a sprinkler

system, and installation of a new ADA compliant elevator to allow access to the facility for individuals with physical limitations. A competitive proposal process is being utilized for contractor selection with proposals due on June 14, 2024, after which time additional information will be issued regarding the construction schedule, scope of work, cost, and construction team.

Larry Richardson, President/CEO of the YMCA of the Roses states "To be a partner in a collaborative effort that seeks to address a community problem, that of homelessness, in a dignified and empathetic perspective, fits with the mission of the YMCA of the Roses. We are grateful for the outreach to the YMCA of the Roses to partner in this service and, while we know and understand this will be challenging, we are confident that the coalition that has been established, formally and informally, as well as the community-at-large, will come along side and support the effort."

Established in November of 2021, the YMCA of the Roses is the result of a merger between the YMCA of York and York County and the Lancaster Family YMCA. Since 1854, the YMCA has been lifting up over 60,000 people a year in the region through programs in the focus areas of Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility. In addition to top-notch wellness facilities, individuals of all walks of life can find support at their local YMCA thanks to community work ranging from the New American Welcome Center for immigrants to college/career prep programs for youths.

www.rosesymca.org

The Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition (Coalition) is the federally designated PA-510 Continuum of Care (CoC). The Office for the Coalition (O4C), which manages the day-to-day functions of the Coalition, joined the Redevelopment Authority of Lancaster County in 2022 and is focused on bringing together the network of partners to deliver a consistent level of quality services to clients in Lancaster County. The O4C, guided by the Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition's Steering Committee works to establish local priorities for system planning and evaluations of system-wide performance with the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

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