

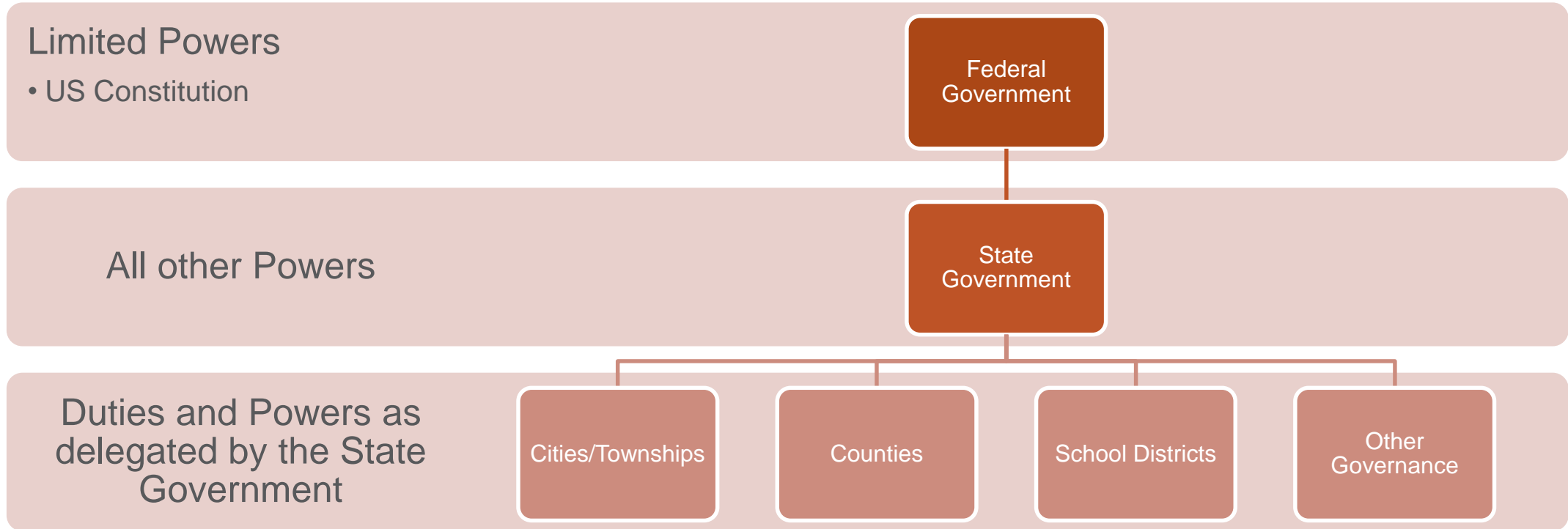
# Ramsey County Updates: Commissioner Nicole Frethem

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# Agenda

- Intro and Welcome
- County Initiative Updates
  - Appropriate Responses Initiative
  - City/County Business Retention and Expansion Pilot
  - Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Levy
  - Food Scraps Pickup Program
  - Non-Public Safety Traffic Stops
- Questions and Staff Contacts

# Ramsey County and Local Governments



Ramsey County is a co-equal delegated government with our cities, township, school districts and other local governance boards

## Appropriate Responses Initiative

### Now

Social workers embedded in ECC to respond to mental health-related calls

Mobile crisis teams responding to 911 calls, crisis hotline calls, response requests from partner agencies

### Soon

Public Health response to substance use calls that are not a medical emergency

### In progress

Community Response: contracted community organization will hire and train responders to respond to certain calls

### Future

County-wide Co-Response Model: planning to begin in late fall of 2023

## City/County Business Retention and Expansion Pilot

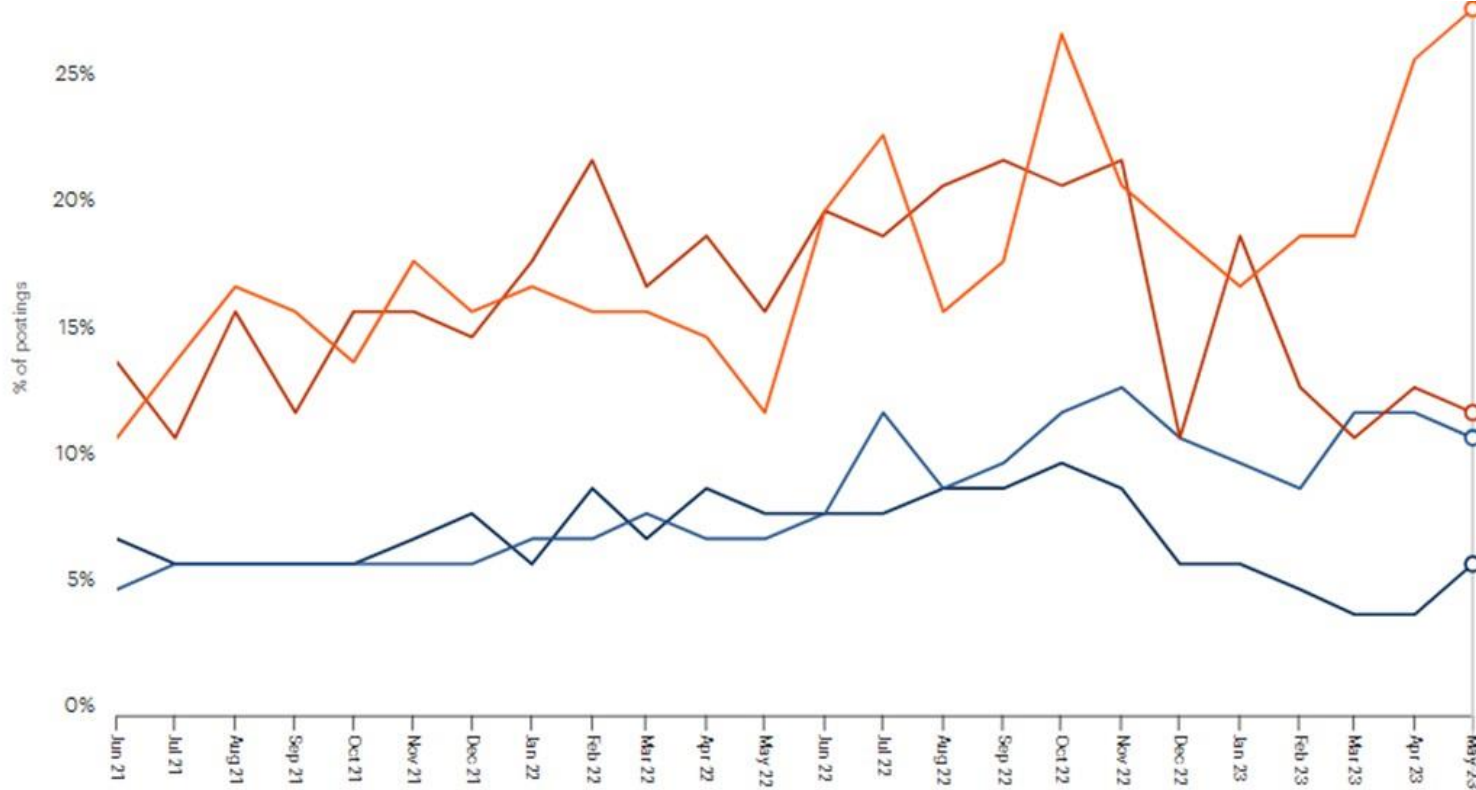
County staff partner with city staff and Economic Development Commission

Workforce Business Retention and Expansion Survey

### Tailor Support and Resources

- Workforce Recruitment
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion resources and support
- Changing Workplace Environment

# Work “Places” are Changing in Ramsey County



	% of Postings May 2022-23	IT Roles	All Roles
Fully Onsite		59% ↓	81% ↓
Fully Remote		18% ↑	7% ↑
Hybrid Remote		21% ↑	11% ↑
Temp Remote		2% ↓	1% ↑

- Information Technology      All talent
- Full remote                       Full remote
- Hybrid Remote                       Hybrid Remote

In May 2023, **18%** of all IT positions in Ramsey County were Fully Remote, and **21%** were Hybrid.

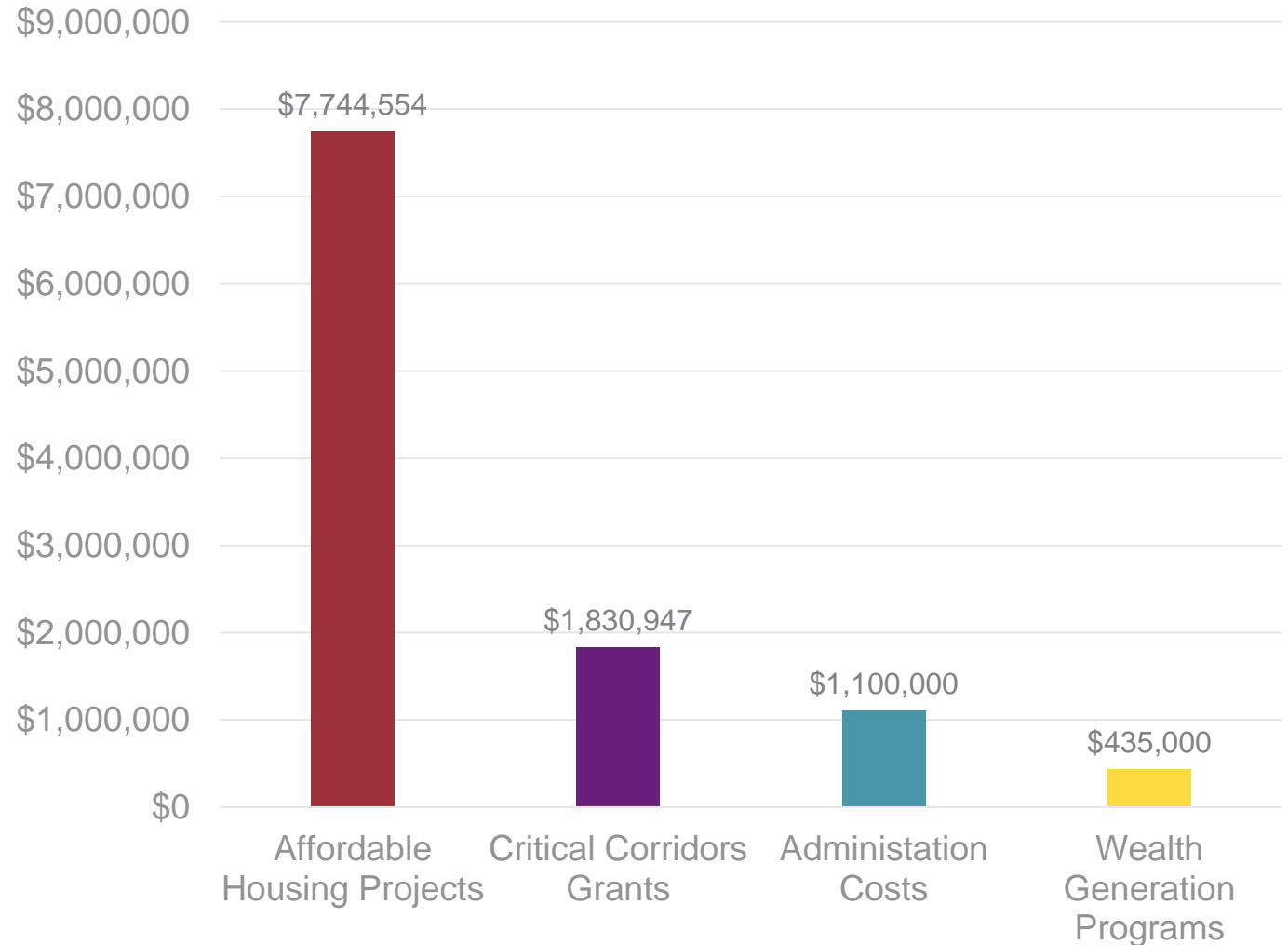
With at least 825 Ramsey County households lacking access to high-speed internet,<sup>[3]</sup> cost of internet averaging \$50/month,<sup>[4]</sup> and the challenge of low community digital literacy,<sup>[5]</sup> the growing opportunities in hybrid and remote work may be out of reach for many.



### 2022 - HRA Levy Spending Highlights

- HRA Levy spend focused on affordable housing infrastructure
  - Increasing supply
  - Deeper affordability levels
- Creation of new flexible and responsive programming
  - Down Payment Assistance
  - Critical Corridors
- Ensuring parity in HRA Levy spending across Saint Paul and Suburbs

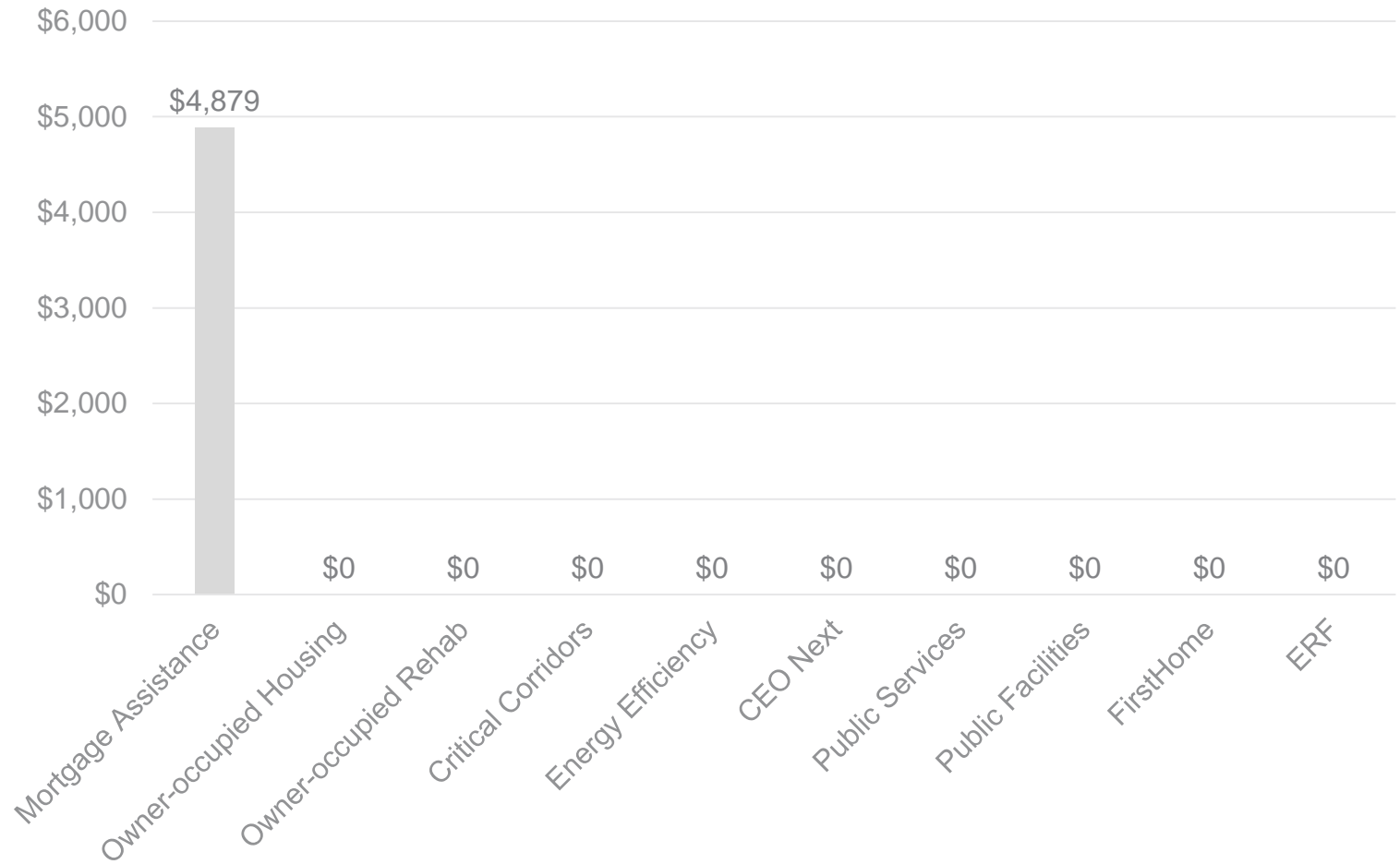
## HRA Levy Update



## 2022 – Vadnais Heights HRA Levy Spending Highlights

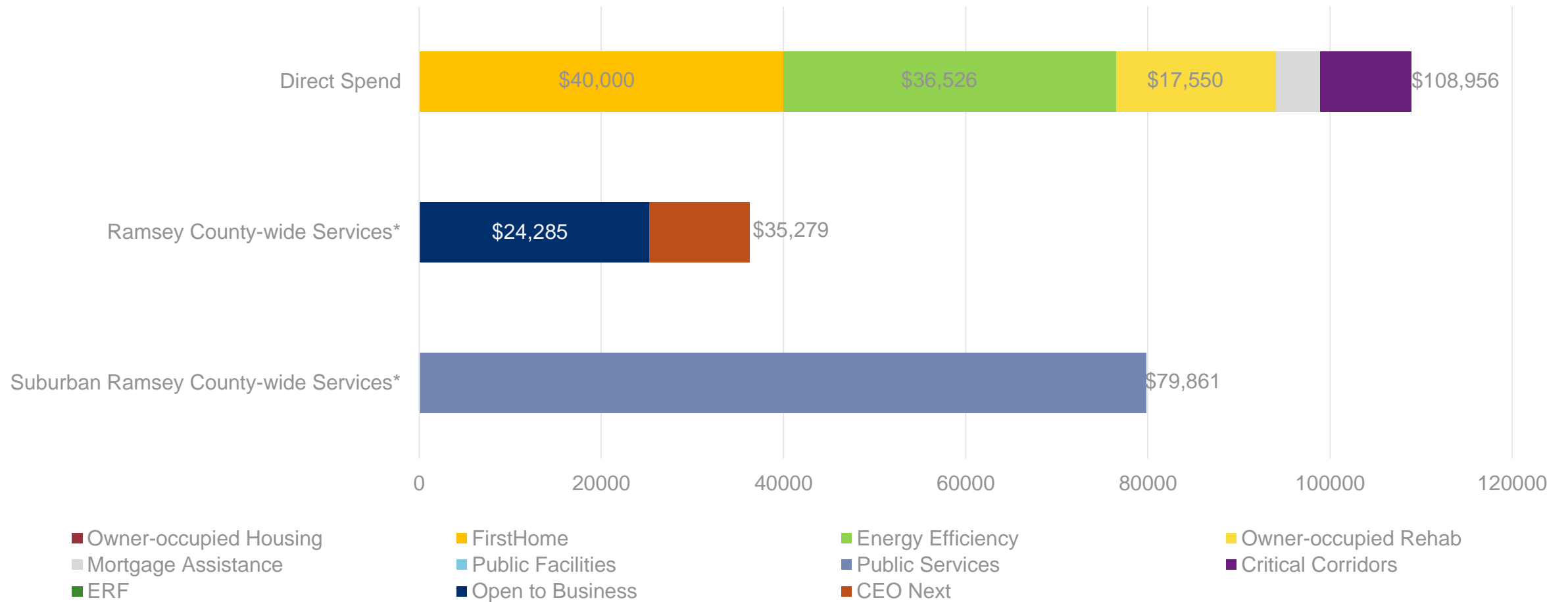
*No HRA-funded projects in  
2022*

### 2022 Vadnais Heights Spend Profile – All Funding Sources





# 2017-2022 Vadnais Heights Spend Profile – All Funding Sources



\* Examples of Suburban/Ramsey County-wide services include HousingLink, HOMEline, Open to Business, CEO Next etc.

# Food Scraps Pickup Program

## How It Works



Order your free supply of food scrap bags.



Collect your food scraps in the bags. Once a week or when the bag is full, tie a knot at the top to close the bag.



Place your bag inside your trash cart or dumpster for collection.



Done! The food scraps will be composted.

# Program Rollout

- Beginning in April 2023, the food scraps pickup program was tested with a limited number of households, referred to as the program pilot.
- Following the program pilot, the program will roll out to the rest of Ramsey and Washington counties in phases over multiple years.
- Residents may check their eligibility and stay up to date on the phased rollout by visiting **FoodScrapsPickup.com** or calling **651-661-9393**.





# Non-Public-Safety Traffic Stops

## 2021 Changes

- RCAO John Choi declines to prosecute violations or charges stemming from searches related to **pretextual stops**.
- Several jurisdictions stopped **enforcing** non-moving violations that aren't public safety concerns.

## What did they do instead?

- Replaced tickets with repair vouchers.



## What happened?

- Non-public-safety traffic stops decreased a LOT!
- **The changes had no discernible effect on crime rates.**

**Thank you!**

**To connect with the District 1 office:**

**Visit [RamseyCounty.us/District1](https://www.RamseyCounty.us/District1)**

**Email [District1@co.Ramsey.mn.us](mailto:District1@co.Ramsey.mn.us)**