



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council and Housing Authority Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMISSIONER **DATE: JULY 14, 2015**

FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2013-2014 TO ALLOCATE \$600,000 OF HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS (HOME) PROGRAM FUNDS TOWARDS THE TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – FUNDS TRANSFER

ISSUES:

The issue for City Council consideration is an amendment to the City of Riverside HUD Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2013-2014 to allocate \$600,000 of HOME Program funds towards the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA) Program.

The issue for City Council and Housing Authority consideration is to enter into an Agreement for the Use of 2013-2014 HOME Program Funds for the TBRA Program to allow the Housing Authority to administer the TBRA Program and commit the HOME Program funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Amend the City of Riverside's HUD Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2013-2014 to allocate \$600,000 of HOME Program funds towards the TBRA Program; and
2. Authorize the transfer of \$600,000 from the HOME Unprogrammed Account No. 2835200-453001 to the TBRA Program Account No. 2835200-454302.

That the City Council and Housing Authority authorize the City Manager and Executive Director, or their designees to execute the attached Use of 2013-2014 HOME Program funds for the TBRA Program Agreement, including making non-substantive changes.

BACKGROUND:

In spring 2014 former HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan called upon leaders from HUD, United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), and the National League of Cities to solidify partnerships and secure commitments to end veteran homelessness from mayors across the country. No one who has served our country should ever go without a safe and stable place to call home. Ending homelessness among veterans cannot be accomplished by federal partners alone and requires

the partnership and commitment of each community's assessment and housing placement system, including veteran service organizations, community-based providers, faith-based organizations, public housing agencies and affordable housing operations.

On June 10, 2014, the City Council supported the Mayor's pledge to ending homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015 and endorsed a partnership between the County of Riverside and the City for the 25 Cities Initiative to end chronic homelessness by the end of 2016 through partnerships with the VA and HUD.

On January 27, 2015, the City conducted a Homeless Point-in-Time Count and identified 27 homeless veterans and 114 chronically homeless individuals living on the streets. The City's homeless veterans number decreased by 60% from the Homeless Veteran 2014 Point-in-Time Count and the chronically homeless count decreased by 54% from the 2013 Point-in-Time Count.

On September 23, 2014, the City Council allocated \$300,000 of HOME Program funds towards the TBRA Program to end veteran homelessness in the City by the end of 2015.

Due to the priority to house homeless veterans by the end of 2015, numerous resources have been redirected to support this initiative resulting in less funding available for chronically homeless individuals. To help the City achieve its goal of ending chronically homelessness by the end of 2016 and to quickly house chronically homeless individuals, staff is recommending allocating \$600,000 of HOME Program funds towards the TBRA Program. This action requires an amendment to the City's HUD Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2013-2014 after a 30-day public comment period, which began on May 26, 2015 and ended on June 25, 2015. The City did not receive any comments from the public on the proposed Action Plan amendment.

The TBRA Program is intended to help homeless individuals quickly exit homelessness and maintain permanent housing by integrating employment assistance, case management and housing services. The TBRA Program take a Housing First approach that rests on the belief that helping people access and sustain permanent affordable housing should be the first step in helping homeless individuals exit life from the streets.

When individuals move directly into a house, they need basic household items and furniture. Since there is not a funding source available to fund these types of activities, staff will seek donations from local businesses, faith-based organizations and the community at large to provide these much needed materials.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. There is \$600,000 available in the HOME Unprogrammed Funds account number 2835200-453001 to transfer to the TBRA Program.

Prepared by:	Emilio Ramirez, Interim Community & Economic Development Director
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by:	Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment:	Agreement for the Use of 2013-2014 HOME Program funds for the TBRA Program
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