



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council and Housing Authority Memorandum

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**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND HOUSING AUTHORITY MEMBERS**      **DATE: JULY 12, 2016**

**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 2014-2015 TO ALLOCATE \$837,001 OF HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS (HOME) PROGRAM FUNDS TOWARDS THE TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – FUNDS TRANSFER**

## **ISSUES:**

The issue for City Council consideration is to approve an amendment to the City of Riverside HUD Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2014-2015 to allocate \$837,001 of HOME Program funds towards the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program.

The issue for City Council and Housing Authority consideration is to approve an agreement for the use of 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 to allocate \$837,001 of HOME Program funds towards the TBRA Program; and
2. Authorize the transfer of \$837,001 from the HOME Unprogrammed Account Number 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 2014-2015 HOME Program funds for the TBRA Program Agreement, including making non-substantive changes.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On May 24, 2016 staff provided the City Council and Housing Authority with a six-month update on the Community Livability Action Plan goals, including the 2016 Riverside County Point-in-Time Count data that identified 258 unsheltered homeless individuals in the City, of which 48 individuals

met the definition of chronically homeless as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In December 2015, the City was able to end veteran homelessness in the City by housing homeless veterans through the City's TBRA Program and providing wrap around services to help the clients become self-sufficient. The City's TBRA Program is funded by the federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program and provides up to 12 months of rental assistance as well as security and utility deposits.

After communities have ended veteran homelessness, the federal government is challenging these communities to end chronic homelessness by the end of 2017. To help the City achieve its goal of ending chronic homelessness by that time and to house chronically homeless individuals, staff recommends allocating \$837,001 of HOME Program funds towards the TBRA Program. This action requires an amendment to the City's HUD Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2014-2015 after a 30-day public comment period, which began on June 6, 2016 and ended on July 7, 2016. If any public comments are received, they will be shared during the City Council meeting.

The TBRA Program takes a Housing First approach that rests on the belief that helping people obtain and sustain permanent affordable housing should be the first step in helping individuals exit life from the streets. The TBRA program provides assistance to individual households to help them afford the housing costs of market-rate units. The level of TBRA Program subsidy varies per individual households; the level of subsidy is based upon the income of the household, the particular unit the household selects, and the local rent standard. The City's TBRA Program provides payments to make up the difference between the amounts a household can afford to pay for housing and the local rent standards. TBRA funds may also be used to pay for costs associated with housing, such as security and utility deposits.

Once permanent housing is obtained, the household continues to receive on-going case management, access to employment assistance and connection to main-stream supportive services and programs.

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 \$837,001 available in Account No. 2835200-453001 (HOME Unprogrammed Funds) that will be transferred to Account No. 2835200-454302 (TBRA Program).

Prepared by:	Rafael Guzman, Community & Economic Development Director
Certified as to availability of funds:	Scott G. Wilson, Interim 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 2014-2015 HOME Program funds for the

## TBRA Program