



Budget Engagement Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2017**

FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE **WARD: ALL**

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the Office of Homeless Solutions Housing First Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Budget Engagement Commission receive and file this report on the Office of Homeless Solutions Housing First Program.

BACKGROUND:

On November 1, 2017, the Housing Authority & Homeless Services Division under the Community & Economic Development Department was renamed the Office of Homeless Solutions and placed under the City Manager's Office to provide a high-level focus on addressing homelessness in the City.

The 2017/18 annual budget for the Office of Homeless Solutions Homeless Programs is \$1,796,937, which is itemized below.

HOMELESS PROGRAMS FY 2017-18 FUNDING SOURCES		
FUNDING SOURCE	ACTIVITY	FUNDING AMOUNT
Continuum of Care Grants (Federal funds)	Rapid Re-Housing Program – Rental Assistance	\$222,214.00
	Chronically Homeless Supportive Housing Program (SHP)	\$121,490.00
	Disabled Homeless Supportive Housing Program (SHP)	\$123,556.00
	Total	\$467,260.00
Emergency Solutions Grants (Federal funds)	Homeless Management Information System - Path of Life Ministries	\$ 15,000.00
	City Administration	\$ 20,225.00
	Riverside Emergency Shelter	\$ 83,684.80
	Cold Weather Shelter Program	\$ 67,600.00
	Rapid Re-Housing Program – Rental Assistance	\$ 75,282.20
	Outreach Program	\$ 14,476.00
	Total	\$276,268.00

FUNDING SOURCE	ACTIVITY	FUNDING AMOUNT
Community Development Block Grant Funds (Federal funds)	Outreach Program	\$ 60,333.00
	Total	\$ 60,333.00
HOME Investment Partnerships Program (Federal Funds)	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program	\$ 531,792.71
	Total	\$ 531,792.71
City General Fund	Riverside Access Center	\$ 80,157.00
	Outreach Program	\$ 291,581.00
	Total	\$ 371,738.00
Housing Authority (Former Redevelopment Housing funds)	Staff Costs Shortfall	\$ 64,545.29
	Total	\$ 64,545.29
Altura Credit Union Grant	Riverside at Work Program	\$ 25,000.00
	Total	\$ 25,000.00
TOTAL HOMELESS SERVICES RESOURCES		\$ 1,796,937.00

A new program that the Office of Homeless Solutions has implemented is the Housing First Program that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues. Additionally, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life. Housing First is a recognized nationwide as best practices for ending homelessness and is more cost effective as it costs approximately \$35,000 annually to serve a homeless person on the streets versus the cost of \$15,000 to house a homeless person and provide supportive services to achieve self-sufficiency.

On June 20, 2017, the City Council authorized staff to seek and identify two to three viable sites for the development or implementation of the proposed housing first model in each Ward. In addition to seeking vacant sites, staff is pursuing potential partnership opportunities with private developers and service providers to build and operate Housing First units. St. Michael's Church has recently formed a partnership with Mercy House to consider the development of Housing First and affordable housing units for a mixed population at 4070 Jackson Street, Ward 5. Mercy House, a Housing First and supportive services provider, located in Santa Ana, has experience in providing a continuum of care services designed to help their clients achieve self-sufficiency and is expected to lead operations. The private - public partnership development will combine exceptional affordable housing with supportive services designed to help individuals stay housed and live a more productive life under a single roof. Below is a photo of the Emmanuel Residence,

a 21-unit apartment complex coupled with administration and case management offices. The Emmanuel Residence is owned, managed and operated by Mercy House.



DISCUSSION:

City staff continues to present the Housing First concept to community and business groups and will return to these groups in November 2017 to present potential Housing First development sites.

To optimize affordable housing funding resources that will become available in 2018 (i.e. No Place Like Home, Senate Bill 2, Housing Trust Fund) staff is exploring Housing First Model sites owned by faith-based organizations in Wards 2 and 7. These sites came forward through the Mayor's Love Your Neighbor initiative.

The Housing Authority of the City of Riverside has earmarked \$3 million of former Redevelopment Housing funds and the City has earmarked \$2 million of Measure Z funds to facilitate the development of Housing First units. Staff will be presenting the Housing First Plan to City Council on January 23, 2018 to propose the development of Housing First sites.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact related to this report.

Prepared by:	Emilio Ramirez,
Approved as to availability of funds:	Adam Raymond, Chief Financial Officer / City Treasurer
Approved by:	Marianna Marysheva, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:
1. Presentation