



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: MAY 8, 2018**

FROM: OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLANS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2016-17 AND 2017-18 AND 2015-19 FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN TO EXPAND THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM SERVICING AREA FROM THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE TO THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

ISSUE:

Amend the City of Riverside United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Annual Action Plans for Program Year 2016-17 and 2017-18 and 2015-19 Five-Year Consolidated Plan expand the HOME Investment Partnerships Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program and Emergency Solutions Grant Rapid Re-Housing Program servicing area from the City of Riverside to the County of Riverside.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council amend the City of Riverside United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Annual Action Plans for Program Year 2016-17 and 2017-18 and 2015-19 Five-Year Consolidated Plan to expand the HOME Investment Partnerships Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program and Emergency Solutions Grant Rapid Re-Housing Program servicing area from the City of Riverside to the County of Riverside.

BACKGROUND:

The City receives an annual allocation of HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The HOME Program provides homebuyer or rehabilitation financing assistance to eligible homeowners and new homebuyers; builds or rehabilitates housing for rent or ownership including site acquisition or improvement, demolishes dilapidated housing to make way for HOME-assisted development, and pays of relocation expenses; and provides tenant-based rental assistance.

The Emergency Solutions Grant engages homeless individuals and families living on the street; improves the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families; helps operate shelters; provides essential services to shelter residents; rapidly re-houses homeless individuals and families; and prevents individuals and families from becoming homeless.

In December 2015, the City was able to end veteran homelessness in the City by housing homeless veterans through the City's HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA) and ESG Rapid Re-Housing Program (RRH) by providing up to 24 months of rental assistance coupled with case management to achieve self-sufficiency and housing stability.

In 2016 the City was then asked by the federal government to take on the challenge of ending chronic homelessness, which the City accepted and supported by continuing to fund the City's TBRA and RRH Programs.

DISCUSSION:

In the past nine months, the City has found it challenging to locate available housing units for TBRA and RRH Program participants in the City of Riverside. To provide more housing opportunities for program participants, staff is requesting to expand the program boundaries countywide which require amendments to the City of Riverside United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Annual Action Plans for Program Year 2016-17 and 2017-18 and 2015-19 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The Office of Homeless Solutions has assigned one dedicated staff person to identify available housing units throughout the city by reaching out to landlords and property owners.

The City is also seeking to partner with the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside to provide Section 8 Housing Vouchers to households that are being assisted through the TBRA and RRH Programs after receiving 12 months of rental assistance and cannot sustain their housing costs after the City's rental assistance has been exhausted.

The TBRA and RRH Programs are intended to help homeless individuals quickly exit homelessness and maintain permanent housing by integrating employment assistance, case management and housing services. The TBRA and RRH Programs have 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.

The Community & Economic Development Director concurs with the recommendations presented in this staff report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. There is \$276,356.31 available in the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Grant Account No. 2835200-454302 to continue funding the TBRA Program and \$72,646 is available in the Emergency Solutions Grant Account No. 9266220-440110 to fund rental assistance activities.

Prepared by:	Emilio Ramirez, Director of Office of Homeless Solutions
Certified as to availability of funds:	Adam Raymond, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by:	Alex Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney