



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL DATE: MARCH 31, 2020

FROM: OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: GRANT AWARD FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COVID-19 EMERGENCY HOMELESSNESS FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,135,237.64 TO HELP PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

ISSUES:

Accept the grant award from the State of California COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding in the amount of \$1,135,237.64 to help protect the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness and authorize a supplemental appropriation in that same amount.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Accept the grant award from the State of California COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding in the amount of \$1,135,237.64 to help protect the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness;
2. Authorize an increase in revenue in the amount of \$1,135,237.64 to the State of California COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Fund account and appropriate expenditures in the same amount as identified in the Fiscal Impact Section of this report; and
3. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the Standard Agreement and all necessary documents, including making non-substantive changes.

BACKGROUND:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 89 on March 17, 2020 allocating funding to help protect this vulnerable population. The funding is being provided to counties, continuum of cares, and the Big 13 Cities.

On March 23, 2020, the City received an award announcement from the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council notifying the City of their award of \$1,135,237.64. The funding is immediately available as a result of swift action taken by the California State Legislature in unanimously approving Senate Bill 89 to help California fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, the award of funds is intended for investments into COVID-19 prevention and containment efforts for shelters, including, but not limited to, medically indicated services and supplies, such as testing and handwashing stations, and enhancements to existing shelter facilities. This will allow for proper social distancing and isolation to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. While eligible uses for funding are broad and should be determined based on the need of the jurisdiction, suggested uses include but are not limited to:

- *Emergency Shelter Operations*: Furnishings, supplies, and equipment needed to maintain a sanitary shelter environment for clients and staff.
- *Shelter Capacity*: Support for increasing shelter capacity and the acquisition of new shelters.
- *Isolation Capacity*: Support for the acquisition/lease of hotels, motels, trailers and other alternative isolation placements.
- *Street Outreach*: Supplies and equipment needed to protect staff engaging with unsheltered from COVID-19 and to meet the urgent physical needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- *Transportation*: Support for the transportation of those experiencing homelessness to and from shelters and medical care.
- *Staffing*: Support for additional staff for infectious disease preparedness and case management for clients.

DISCUSSION:

Staff is requesting authorization to accept the grant award from the State of California COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding in the amount of \$1,135,237.64 to help protect the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness by carrying out the following activities:

1. Install hygiene stations where large encampments are located;
2. Add two additional outreach workers and a case manager to City Net's contract to provide education on COVID-19 and offer supportive services to homeless individuals living in large encampments and in motels/hotels secured by the City;
3. Secure motel/hotel rooms for isolation capacity;
4. Homeless prevention through rental assistance or utility payments; and
5. Diversion (i.e. family reunification, security deposit, housing search, conflict mediation, assistance with mainstream services).

The City's effort will be used to augment the efforts already underway by the County of Riverside, which is providing additional shelter for the most vulnerable homeless individuals with no identified housing, consistent with guidance issued by the State and Federal Government. Motel vouchers will be prioritized to those that meet one of the following criteria:

- Is a senior who is 65 years old or older;
- Is pregnant;
- Has a serious chronic health condition like heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease; or
- Has a compromised immune system.

The COVID-19 Emergency Homeless Funding must be encumbered by June 30, 2020. The City will be required to submit an annual report by July 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021 on the funds expended and any additional information that may be requested by the State.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The grant award is \$1,135,237.64. No matching funds are required.

Upon City Council authorization, an increase in revenues in the amount of \$1,135,237.64, will be recorded to the project account 9341500-334100 and expenditures appropriated as identified below.

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NO.	FUNDING AMOUNT
COVID-19 EHF Diversion	9341510-440210	\$100,000.00
COVID-19 EHF Infection Ctrl	9341540-440210	\$311,000.00
COVID-19 EHF Prevention	9341520-440210	\$311,000.00
COVID-19 EHF Shelter	9341530-440210	\$313,237.64
COVID-19 Emergency Housing Fund	9341500-440210	\$100,000.00

Prepared by: Michelle Davis, Housing Authority Manager
 Certified as to
 availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Finance Officer/City Treasurer
 Approved by: Moises Lopez, Deputy City Manager
 Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Standard Agreement