



City of Arts & Innovation

Housing and Homelessness Committee Memorandum

**TO: HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

DATE: JULY 26, 2021

FROM: OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

WARD: ALL

**SUBJECT: PLAN TO TRANSITION RESIDENTS FROM HOMELESS SHELTERS TO
PERMANENT HOUSING AND ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 2553 – DIRECT
SUBMITTAL**

ISSUE:

Conceptually approve a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing and annual reports to the Senate Committee on Housing and Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development required by Assembly Bill 2553.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee conceptually approve a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing and annual reports to the Senate Committee on Housing and Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development required by Assembly Bill 2553 for City Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The State of California has enacted laws to address the statewide crisis of unsheltered homelessness and associated impacts on community quality of life. Government Code 8698.2 (Attachment 1) allows cities to declare a shelter crisis when "a significant number of persons are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to their health and safety." The law includes several provisions that ease the regulatory barriers on local jurisdictions to allow for creation of emergency shelters during a declared shelter crisis. Among the provisions, local jurisdictions must report to the Senate Committee on Housing and the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development various data on homelessness and housing unit availability during a declared shelter crisis.

On September 25, 2020, Assembly Bill 2553 (Attachment 2) was passed and added, among other provisions, a requirement to include "a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing" by July 1, 2021, and to report "the number and bed capacity of new homeless shelters built pursuant to this section" in annual reports, the first report due by January 1, 2022.

On December 8, 2018, the City of Riverside declared a shelter crisis within city limits, pursuant to Government Code 8698.2, because a significant number of persons in the city were found to be

without the ability to obtain shelter, a condition resulting in a threat to the health and safety of those persons.

DISCUSSION:

The City procured Sagecrest Planning and Environment (Sagecrest) to develop a plan to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent housing (Attachment 3) and the annual report to the Senate Committee on Housing and Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development (Attachment 4) required by Assembly Bill 2553.

The Riverside 2020 Homeless Point-in-Time Count disclosed the City of Riverside had 587 unhoused persons while the number of beds in new homeless shelters was 201. Meanwhile, the number of persons exiting the system and no longer in need of housing was 157 persons in FY 2019/2020, and 154 persons in FY 2020/2021 (to date). Between 2019-2021, the average number of exits was 156 persons. Even when factoring in system exits, the number of unhoused persons in Riverside's 2020 Point-In-Time Count exceeds available beds by approximately 230.

An estimated 36% of unhoused individuals that have stayed at the Path of Life Emergency Shelter in the city during FY 2020/2021 are residents of the City of Riverside, and 64% are from other communities where shelters and possibly homeless programs are not being provided.

Plan to Transition Residents from Homeless Shelters to Permanent Housing

To assist residents in homeless shelters transition into permanent housing, the City will carry out the following activities:

1. Family Reunification Program. Cover transportation costs to reunite individuals with family and friends who are willing to assist them.
2. Dedicated emergency shelter beds. Secure additional beds at the Path of Life Emergency Shelter for dedicated beds for City of Riverside residents.
3. Add 101 shelter/bridge housing beds. Create an additional 101 shelter/bridge housing beds in the city to address the ongoing need.
4. Creation of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing units. To-date, the City's Housing Authority has 532 affordable housing units in the pipeline for development, which 285 are set-aside for permanent supportive housing. The Housing Authority will work with housing developers to identify development opportunities for the remaining eight (8) vacant Housing Authority sites.
5. Dedicate up to 35% of the City's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds to the Rapid Re-Housing Program. Dedicate up to 35 % of the ESG grant funds to the Rapid Re-Housing to cover security deposits and up to 12 months of rental assistance for homeless individuals.
6. Ensure residents in the emergency shelters complete a standard assessment tool are document ready for the Riverside County Continuum of Care housing resources. Ensure all outreach workers are trained to complete the standard assessment tool – the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Assessment Tool (VI-SPDAT) that considers the household's situation and identifies the best type of housing intervention to address their situation. A community queue known as the By Name List (BNL) of eligible households is generated from the VI-SPDAT. The BNL is used to fill spaces in the permanent housing programs, including permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing, in the County.
7. Dedicate up to 50% of HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program, Program Income

funds to the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program. The City receives HOME program income from payments on residual receipt loans and down payment and housing rehabilitation loans.

8. Work with communities not providing homeless resources. Continue the Riverside Homeless Forum to encourage cities and counties to discuss shelter and housing needs and how smaller communities can collaborate to address homelessness within their communities.
9. Assist clients with applying for the Riverside County's Section 8 and Moving-On Programs. Assist Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program and Rapid Re-Housing Program participants with applying for the County's Section 8 Program and Moving on Program to ensure clients can achieve permanent housing. Permanent Housing Program (PSH) recipients who no longer need case management will be encouraged to apply for the Moving on Program to free up PSH units needed for individuals on the BNL.

Annual Report

Per Assembly Bill 2553, the City will be required to submit an annual report on the following beginning on January 1, 2022:

1. The total number of residents in homeless shelters within the city.
2. The total number of residents who have moved from a homeless shelter into permanent housing in the city and county.
3. The estimated number of permanent supportive housing units.
4. The number of residents who have exited the system and are no longer in need of a homeless shelter or permanent supportive housing within the city.
5. The number and bed capacity of new homeless shelters built pursuant to this section within the city.
6. New actions the city is taking under the declared shelter crisis to better serve the homeless population and to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness.

Sagecrest has provided responses to the data mentioned above for FY 2019/2020 and FY 2020/2021 in Attachment 3.

Interviews

Sagecrest interviewed key stakeholders involved in the Continuum of Care who operate homeless programs to understand their current operations, goals, measures of success, and gaps to be addressed. The interviews offered a candid glimpse into the roles various service providers play in addressing homelessness in the City.

Interviewees reported various measures of success in combatting homelessness. These are best understood when grouped as quantitative and qualitative metrics, summarized below:

Measure of Success	
Quantitative	Qualitative
Housing Placement Numbers	Basic Human Service
Collecting and Acting Upon Street Level-Data	Service Provider Consistency
Number of Services Rendered	Reconnecting People to Care Providers
	Self-sufficiency
	Feedback

	Success Stories
Strengths	Opportunity Areas
City's leadership	Staffing related enhancements
Collaboration	Funding
Authentic outreach	Housing
Data-driven results	Services
Passion	Community partnerships
	Success stories

Staff will work with our partners on how to work collectively on the opportunity areas.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for the programs identified in the transition plan are as follows:

Program	Funding Source
Family Reunification Program	General Fund - Homeless Outreach
Dedicated emergency shelter beds	Federal Emergency Solutions Grant – CARES Act
Add 101 shelter/bridge housing beds	Measure Z/State Homeless Emergency Aid Program/State Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Grant
Creation of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing units.	Federal HOME Investment Partnerships Grant/Permanent Local Housing Allocation/Housing Authority
Rapid Re-Housing Program	Federal Emergency Solutions Grant
Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program	Federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program

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 Approved by: Kris Martinez, Interim Assistant City Manager
 Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Government Code 8698.2
2. Assembly Bill 2553
3. Plan to Transition Residents from Shelters to Permanent Housing
4. Annual Report to the Senate Committee on Housing and Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development