

Agenda Report

October 15, 2018

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Housing and Career Services Department

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY (LAHSA) FOR THE RECEIPT OF MEASURE H FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,243,825 FOR HOMELESS SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Find that the recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines per Section 15061 (b)(3), the "General Rule" that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment;
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA) for the receipt of funding to provide homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, coordinated entry, and motel voucher programs in the City of Pasadena in the amount of \$1,243,825 in Measure H funds;
- 3) Amend the Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget to recognize revenues and appropriate funds in the amount of \$1,243,825; and
- 4) Authorize the Mayor to send a letter on behalf of the City of Pasadena requesting a more equitable allocation of Measure H funding to Pasadena.

BACKGROUND:

On March 7, 2017, voters in Los Angeles County approved Measure H, a countywide quarter-cent sales tax to fund supportive services, housing, outreach, and prevention services for people experiencing homelessness. Based on local economic activity, Pasadena contributes approximately \$7 million annually to this effort.

The County Chief Executive Office (CEO) allocated a portion of Measure H funding to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), a joint powers agency established by the County of Los Angeles and City of Los Angeles to serve as the Continuum of Care for 85 cities and the unincorporated county areas. LASHA has developed a series of 21 Homeless Initiative strategies which it is funding throughout Los Angeles County.

On June 13, 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to provide direct Measure H funds to the cities of Pasadena, Glendale and Long Beach which all operate their own Continuums of Care. The motion was in response to an April 10, 2017 joint letter sent to the Board of Supervisors by the Continuum of Care cities.

To date, the City has received only about \$150,000 in Measure H funding, for landlord incentives and wage subsidies. One of the major challenges in obtaining Measure H funding is the fact that the CEO determines what programs and initiatives it wishes to make available to the Continuum of Care cities. For example, LASHA has offered funding for the establishment of new homeless shelters, but the City's experience has shown that this is not as effective in dealing with Pasadena's local homeless population as rapid re-housing or other services prioritized in the City's Continuum of Care and the amount offered was too small to build a shelter. Nevertheless, staff has recently come to agreement with LASHA to provide funding for four Initiatives:

- Homelessness Prevention for Individuals
- Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Re-Housing
- Strengthen the Coordinated Entry System
- Enhance the Emergency Shelter System

The total amount of funding to be provided is \$1,243,825 and is intended to cover a period of two years, Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019. Upon receipt of these funds, staff will undertake a Competitive Selection Process in order to contract with community-based organizations to provide the approved services.

Staff is grateful to LASHA for the allocation of funding, however, it has taken over a year to reach agreement on the funding priorities and level, while over roughly the same period of time the City has seen a 28% overall increase in homelessness and a staggering 65% increase in those over 50 years of age. Moreover, given that Pasadena is contributing approximately \$7 million per year towards Measure H funding, the \$1.2 million represented in this report translates to less than 10% of the funds contributed. Given these reasons, staff recommends that the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a letters on behalf of the City requesting a more equitable allocation of Measure H funding to Pasadena.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

Approval of the recommended action has the potential to provide essential housing and supportive services for homeless individuals and families. Authorization of this contract is in accordance with the Pasadena Continuum of Care system, General Plan Housing Element, Five-Year Consolidated Plan, and Five-Year Public Housing Authority Plan.

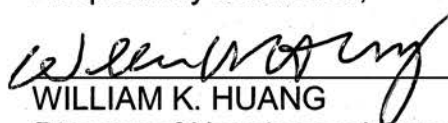
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3), the "General Rule" provision of CEQA which applies to projects which may have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The approval of proposed Measure H funding will not have a significant effect on the environment and, hence, is not subject to CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT:


Approval of the recommended action will result in the City recognizing additional revenue of \$1,243,825 Measure H funding (Acct. No. 23816014-7000000-51026) and appropriating (Acct. No. 23816014-818800-51026) the same amount for the provision of contract services to address homelessness. Any Measure H revenues unexpended as of June 30, 2019 will be recommended to be carried over into the FY 2020 operating budget. There are no anticipated indirect or support costs such as maintenance and IT support associated with the staff recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,


WILLIAM K. HUANG

Director of Housing and Career Services

Prepared by:


Jennifer O'Reilly-Jones
Program Coordinator II

Approved by:


STEVE MERMELL
City Manager