

Agenda Report

April 6, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Housing

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A STANDARD AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO RECEIVE \$105,625.89 IN COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT FUNDS

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 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 the State of California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency (BCSH) for the receipt of emergency funding in the amount of \$105,625.89 to protect the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak; and
- 3) Amend the FY 2020 Operating Budget to recognize revenues and appropriate expenditures in the amount of \$105,625.89.

BACKGROUND:

On March 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 89, which was approved unanimously by the State legislature and authorized a total appropriation of up to \$1 billion to provide assistance to California counties, Continuums of Care (CoCs), and the state's 13 largest cities to help fight the spread of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness. Governor Newsom's Administration allocated \$100 million in emergency funding from SB 89 to local governments to help protect this vulnerable population and reduce the spread of COVID-19 by safely getting individuals into shelter and providing immediate housing options.

On March 23, 2020, the State of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) issued an award notification and distributed a Standard Agreement to the Pasadena CoC for COVID-19 emergency homelessness funding in the amount of \$105,625.89. Funding allocations were divided proportionally across eligible jurisdictions based on the previous allocations through the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program.

The funding is intended for COVID-19 prevention and containment efforts for temporary shelters, including, but not limited to, medically indicated services and supplies, such as testing and handwashing stations, and enhancements to existing shelter facilities. Funding can also be used for acquiring new shelters, supplies and equipment for emergency shelter operations, increasing shelter capacity, street outreach, and acquiring locations to place individuals who need to be isolated because of COVID-19 illness or exposure. The intent of these investments is to allow for proper social distancing and isolation to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population.

Next Steps

As the next step in the process of serving as the Administrative Entity for the Pasadena Continuum of Care's allocation of COVID-19 emergency funds, the City is required to enter into a Standard Agreement with the State to receive the funding in the form of a block grant. All grantees must submit a signed Standard Agreement document and Request for Funds (RFF) form prior to the funds being released.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

Approval of the recommended action has the potential to protect the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness in Pasadena, provide emergency prevention and containment interventions, and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak among a highly vulnerable population. The execution of this contract with the State 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 execution of a contract with the state to fund COVID-19 prevention and containment efforts will not have a significant effect on the environment and, hence, is not subject to CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT:

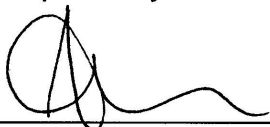
Approval of the recommended action will result in the City recognizing additional revenue in the Other Housing Fund (23816014-700000-51035) and appropriation of \$105,625.89 for the COVID-19 Emergency Response Grant funding (23816014-811400-51035).

Respectfully submitted,



for WILLIAM K. HUANG
Director of Housing

Prepared by:



for Jennifer O'Reilly-Jones
Program Coordinator II

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager