

Agenda Report

September 20, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Housing

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION FUNDING WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY

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 "common sense" provision that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and
- 2) Authorize the application for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Round 3 funding for eligible programs and activities that serve people experiencing homelessness; and
- 3) Authorize the City Manager to certify or execute, and the City Clerk to attest, the application and all other documents, agreements and amendments related to the application and subsequent State award.

BACKGROUND:

To date, the City has been awarded two rounds of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) grant funding that has been made available by the State of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. The City was awarded \$638,478 in the first round in FY 2020 and \$302,105 in the second round in FY 2021. The State's most recently passed budget for 2021-2022 enacts unprecedented investments for homelessness programs, including approximately \$12 billion in new funding over the next two years.

Of this new funding, \$1 billion will be appropriated annually in FYs 21-22 and 22-23 for rounds 3 and 4 of the HHAP program. These funds will support local communities

through a broad range of flexible uses, including street outreach, interim housing, rapid rehousing, hotel and motel conversions, and permanent supportive housing. These discretionary homelessness funds will have a clear focus on accountability and outcomes whereby each grantee must establish quantifiable performance goals and will receive bonus funds if they meet their goals. HHAP will include a required minimum of 10% set aside for youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

On August 12, 2021 the California Homeless Coordinating and Finance Council announced HHAP-Round 3 ("HHAP-3") base funding allocations for eligible jurisdictions. The anticipated allocation for the Pasadena Continuum of Care (CoC) is \$811,206. Allocations were based on local Point-In-Time (PIT) counts of homeless populations. As more information on these funds becomes available, the City will work with homeless service providers and local CoC stakeholders to identify the most impactful investment opportunities in our community.

As the next step in the process of serving as the Administrative Entity for the Pasadena CoC's allocation of HHAP-3 funds, the City is required to submit a certification of intent to apply for HHAP-3 funds to the State by October 15, 2021. Subsequently, the City will be required to submit a funding application to the State by June 30, 2022 which will outline allocations with corresponding eligible activities that the grant will support. The City's application will be in the amount of \$811,206 unless the allocation is revised by the State, in which case the application will be for the total funding available to the City. At the time the City is awarded HHAP funds, the City will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to allocate funds to local homeless services providers. The funding recommendations will be brought to City Council for approval upon the completion of this process.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed actions support the City Council Strategic Planning Three-Year Goals in the area of supporting and promoting the quality of life and the local economy. Approval of the recommended action has the potential to provide essential housing and services for individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness in Pasadena. Submittal of this funding application 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 actions proposed herein are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3), the "common sense" 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 submittal of an intent to apply and

the subsequent funding application to BCSH for HHAP grant funding will not have a significant effect on the environment and, hence, is not subject to CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT:

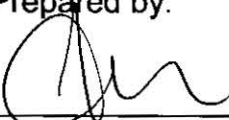
Approval of the recommended action will have no direct fiscal impact. Should the City's application later be selected for an award of funds, staff will bring back a recommendation to the City Council to recognize additional revenue and to appropriate funding for the provision of contract services to address homelessness.

Respectfully submitted,



for WILLIAM K. HUANG
Director of Housing

Prepared by:



for Jennifer O'Reilly-Jones
Program Coordinator II

Approved by:



for STEVE MERMELL
City Manager