Agenda Report

March 13, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Housing

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND CONTRACT NO. 25,558 WITH THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES TO PROVIDE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

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 a significant effect on the environment; and

2) Authorize the City Manager to amend Contract No. 25,558 with the City of Los Angeles to add $298,830 for a not-to-exceed total of $579,500 and extend the term through June 30, 2023 to support the continued provision of Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)-funded rental assistance.

BACKGROUND:

The Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) Program was established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1991 by the AIDS Housing Opportunities Act to provide support for housing assistance and services to low-income persons with HIV/AIDS and their families. The HOPWA program strategy is to allow states and metropolitan areas that have a high incidence of AIDS cases to design long-term comprehensive strategies to meet the housing needs of persons with AIDS. HUD awards HOPWA funds to one government entity in each metropolitan area. The City of Los Angeles is the coordinating agency administering HOPWA grant funds for all of Los Angeles County. The HOPWA program provides twelve months of rental assistance via a housing voucher to very low-income persons, both individuals and in families, diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Applicants are referred by the Foothill AIDS Project.

After the initial twelve months of assistance, program participants typically transition to the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) for ongoing rental assistance. The Department of Housing has administered the HOPWA tenant-based rental assistance program since 1995.

On September 20, 2021, City Council authorized Contract No. 25,558 with the City of Los Angeles to sustain the City's HOPWA program for $280,670. Amendment of this contract will provide an additional $298,830 of HOPWA tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) funding for approximately nineteen new and ongoing very low-income households living with HIV/AIDS totaling the recommended not-to-exceed contract of $579,500.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

Approval of the subject recommendation has the potential to provide housing for approximately nineteen individuals/families living with HIV/AIDS. The proposed recommendation is in accordance with the approved 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 amendment of a contract for HOPWA funding will not have a significant effect on the environment and, hence, is not subject to CEQA.
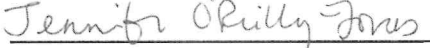
FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the Housing Department's FY 2023 Operating Budget. Approval of the recommended actions will amend Contract No. 25,558 with the City of Los Angeles to a not-to-exceed amount of $579,500.

Respectfully submitted,

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Approved by:

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