



Information Packet

Agenda Related Item(s) – File ID 20-00604 (3-A)

ITEM(S)

File ID 20-00604 (3-A) - RESOLUTION – Authorizing Coordination to Align Spending Plans for COVID-19 Homeless Response using Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Emergency Solutions Grant Funding.

Contents of Supplement: Updated staff report in the Background section and Homeless Rural Efforts to Date dated April 30, 2020

Item(s)

Supplemental Information:

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REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

May 14, 2020

FROM: CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
(Councilmembers Miguel Arias, Esmeralda Soria and Garry Bredefeld)
and
LEE BRAND, Mayor
Office of the Mayor & City Manager

BY: H. SPEES, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Office of the Mayor & City Manager

SUBJECT

..Title

RESOLUTION - Authorizing Coordination to Align Spending Plans for COVID-19 Homeless Response Using Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Emergency Solutions Grant Funding

..Body

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution of the Council of the City of Fresno, CA, authorizing coordination with the County of Fresno and the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care to align spending plans and establish disbursement mechanisms that support the community-wide COVID-19 Homeless Response using Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Emergency Solutions Grant supplemental funding, Public Law 116-136.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City—through the Mayor and the Council Subcommittee on Homelessness—and the County of Fresno—through the County Administrative Officer and County Supervisor Nathan Magsig, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors' designee—have collaborated with the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care and service providers to align varied resources to execute the COVID-19 Homeless Response (Response) for the prevention and containment of COVID-19 among individuals experiencing homelessness community-wide.

One-time State funding to address homelessness; Homeless Emergency Aid Program (2018), Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (2019), one-time State COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding Grant, Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding for the community-wide Response warrant continued coordination.

Adoption of the proposed resolution will authorize staff to apply the City's ESG-CV dollars the Response maintaining the continuum of services. (See Attachment A—Resolution for COVID-19

Homeless Response Using ESG-CV Funding). This special allocation is separate from the City's annual ESG allocation.

Included with the proposed resolution is a table of how, generally, the City's ESG-CV funds will be applied to the Response. Any major reallocations of these resources due to changes in the nature or duration of the pandemic will be brought back to the City Council for reconsideration.

BACKGROUND

On March 19, 2020, the State identified approximately \$2 million in flexible COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding Grant allocations to the City of Fresno (\$1,012,869.44), the County of Fresno (\$382,080.59) and the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (\$488,763.33). Recipients, in coordination with a strategy team, quickly developed, implemented, and executed the community-wide Response for prevention and containment. The Response consists of approximately 300 beds for families and individuals experiencing homelessness, supports handwashing and sanitizing stations throughout the community, continues security services at contracted hotels, adds cleaning at new bed sites and existing shelters, and other required services and supplies through, approximately the middle of June 2020.

During the Special Meeting on April 16, 2020, the City of Fresno redirected its State allocation to the County of Fresno through a Memorandum of Understanding to support the Response.

On April 2, 2020, the notification regarding ESG-CV funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$2,103,510 to the City of Fresno. (See Attachment B—ESG Letter from HUD 04-02-2020)

In discussion with the County of Fresno, the Council Subcommittee on Homelessness raised several key items that have been addressed as follows:

1. The County will remain the contract holder for the extended period of service
2. The County has developed a plan for delivering shelter services in rural communities (See plan as Agenda Backup Material)
3. The City/County will return to Council within 45 days with a plan to transition existing shelter tenants into safe exits including permanent housing and various recovery and service settings
4. The City/County will evaluate current County owned properties for future use as homeless housing
5. The City/County will provide information to the Council Subcommittee on Homelessness to evaluate securing motels/hotels for conversion into permanent housing

The proposed resolution authorizes the City to continue participation in the Response, which may expand the number of beds, while maintaining existing beds, added through the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic or approximately mid-September. (It should be noted that the Joint Funding Plan embedded in Exhibit A of the Resolution is being updated periodically based on the roll out of services and is included here to show Council the general framework for services and their funding.)

ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

This Resolution is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act.

LOCAL PREFERENCE

Local preference is not applicable because this resolution does not include an award of a construction or service contract.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no increase in Net City Cost associated with the recommended action. There is no matching contribution requirement for these funds.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution

Attachment B – ESG Letter from HUD 04-02-2020

Homeless Rural Efforts to Date

April 30, 2020

For cities listed afterwards, the following was confirmed (enhanced services also exist in Fresno & Clovis)

Population

- Small community of persons experiencing homelessness, have family ties in community and decline housing and other services to remain in their community
- Multigenerational homelessness
- Farmworker population
- Lack emergency housing in the community
- Lack transportation to outpatient substance abuse programs

Services Provided by Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) –*not all inclusive of extensive resources (substance use disorder and mental health) in the County*

- Multi-Agency Access Program (MAP), for more than just those experiencing homelessness – diversion, service assistance, reengaging family/church, landlord advocacy, and transportation – 3 sites: Selma and alternate between Reedley and Sanger
- Fresno Madera Continuum of Care Home Team and DBH funded Kings View- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness and Rural Expanded Outreach provide services, including to veterans
- Rural Crisis Triage Team was funded and implemented before the Crisis Intervention Team in the City of Fresno
- Partnership with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools for school psychiatric testing to educational barriers – ages 0 to 22 – provides mental health clinicians
- Turning Point Rural Mental Health Program – low, moderate, and high (regular outpatient, case management, and individual therapy for emotional needs, Full-Service Partnership services which allows for case management linkage and skill building)
- Community Engagement Task Force providing referrals to housing for those with mental illness or substance use disorders

Services Provided by Department of Social Services (DSS)– *not all inclusive of extensive resources (public assistance) in the County*

- Neighborhood Resource Centers
- Housing navigation and rapid rehousing

Planned Services to Rural Communities – expected to be online in May/June 2020

- Whole Person Care-like services using grant funding (telemedicine and targeted health-related outreach with services)
- Outreach services to continue in rural community using County grant funding
- Partnership with an East and West side shelter provider to [add 84 beds](#) (further detail on page 2)

In addition

- No Place Like Home permanent supportive housing anticipated by September/October through DBH
- Continued strategizing and coordination with City of Fresno and Fresno Housing Authority regarding other forms of permanent housing with, if appropriate, complimentary behavioral health services

Added Rural Efforts in Place

Reedley (approximately 30 individuals experiencing homelessness)

- Omni Family Health Center & United Health Care Centers Behavioral Health available
- Referred to Sanger Kings View outpatient services for Substance Use Disorders
- Faith House is a high-barrier facility (old Marjorie Mason Center) used for persons seeking housing due to a home burning down, etc.
- Reedley has the rural advocacy center which serves clients in Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Reedley, Selma and unincorporated areas – provides temporary housing and supportive services to domestic violence victims/survivors through Marjaree Mason Center (DSS contract)

Selma (approximately 30 individuals experiencing homelessness)

- Community and faith base organizations providing services – but no housing available - Selma Community Outreach Ministries (Selma COM) through Delfina Vasquez
- Families fleeing domestic violence coming in from other cities
- Food give away and distributions requires people to provide an address – those that participate are low income not homeless
- Shower RV
- Cal OES Travel Trailers (4-6 beds) placed near hotel that will be acquired for services

Planned – East Side Provider

- Adding 30 new rooms/60 beds funded with CDBG

Sanger (approximately 38 individuals experiencing homelessness)

- HOPE Sanger purchased a motel 16-unit/32 beds hotel to provide shelter & meals – families are referred through MAP

Kingsburg (approximately 6 individuals experiencing homelessness)

- Community Assistance Program through volunteers
- Church provide services

Parlier (approximately 25 individuals experiencing homelessness)

- Services at 580 Tulare Street, but were asked to move to Senior Center
- Poverello Office in Reedley but work outside the Mennonite Church
- Food truck hot meal and lunches (25-40 meals served)
- Transitional Living and Room & Board facilities

Kerman (approximately 10 individuals experiencing homelessness)

- Navigator services a couple days a week

Fowler (approximately 3 individuals experiencing homelessness)

- Food distribution last Wednesday of every month at church
- Poverello food truck with explanation of services
- Town takes care of themselves

San Joaquin (approximately 5 individuals experiencing homelessness)

- Mobile MAP – meals and case management
- Food giveaways are coordinated with MAP
- Rescue Mission assists with community response team

Huron

Planned – West Side Provider

- Adding 12 new rooms/24 beds funded with ESG