



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

November 20, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Benita De Frank, Neighborhood Services Director

Subject: **Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of \$19,250 of Measure H Homeless Initiative Funds to Locally Administer the Homeless Incentive Program (HIP).**

OVERVIEW

Recommendation – That the City Council adopt the attached resolution:

1. Authorizing the acceptance of \$19,250 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in Measure H Homeless Initiative Funds to locally administer the Homeless Incentive Program (HIP).
2. Amend the FY 2017-2018 Neighborhood Services Department budget by receiving and appropriating \$19,250 in Measure H Homeless Initiative Funds.
3. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the appropriate contracts and other documentation requested for acceptance of the award and operation of the above listed programs for submittal to the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA), subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact – Adoption of the attached resolution will bring \$19,250 in funding to assist five homeless individuals and families to pay for moving costs and to encourage landlord acceptance of tenants with a voucher issued by the Pomona Housing Authority. The funds include \$17,500 (139-1791-XXXXXX-00000) to pay for holding fees, move-in costs, credit and application fees and damage claims and \$1,750 (139-1702-XXXXXX-00000) in administrative funds to administer the program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Pomona Housing Authority (PHA) will be a sub-recipient of funds through the Los Angeles County's recently passed Measure H funding, which aims to support persons experiencing homelessness. The intent of the Homeless Incentive Program (HIP) is to provide additional resources to assist those in search of housing, while encouraging landlord acceptance of subsidized tenants who have issued vouchers by the PHA.

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DISCUSSION:

Los Angeles County's Measure H Initiative is expected to generate an estimated \$355 million annually for services to combat homelessness. One of the eligible strategies under Measure H is Strategy B4 - "Facilitate Utilization of Federal Housing Subsidies." The Initiative aims to do this by providing Public Housing Authorities throughout LA County with funding to encourage landlord acceptance of subsidized tenants who have been determined to be homeless with a HUD voucher.

On June 13, 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved funding allocations for each of the Measure H eligible Homeless Initiative strategies that included an allocation to HACoLA for Strategy B4. The HACoLA and the PHA believe that it would be mutually beneficial to provide additional resources to homeless families in Pomona through the HIP.

There are four components of the HIP including:

- **Holding Fees:** Provided in the form of incentives to landlords to receive one month's fee for holding an available unit for homeless individuals and families who are determined eligible for housing.
- **Assistance with credit checks and rental application fees:** Once a client elects a unit, they are eligible to receive financial assistance to cover the costs of a credit check and rental applications fees.
- **Move-In Assistance:** Provided to Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Participants in the form of security deposits, utility assistance and furniture essentials.
- **Damage Claims:** Financial Assistance to Landlords to mitigate damages by tenants during their occupancy in subsidized units.

The start date of this program is January 1, 2018 and an annual allocation of \$19,250 will be made available to the PHA for a total of three years. Following the initial receipt and appropriation of this funding in the current fiscal year taken by the about recommended actions, the revenue and appropriation for subsequent years will be included in the City's budgeting process. During the three year period the PHA will commit 25% of its turn-over Housing Choice Vouchers, totaling five vouchers per fiscal year for the term of the program, to assist homeless individuals and families under HIP.

To date, there are approximately 350 families who claim homelessness on the PHA's Section 8 Program Waiting List. As a result of the HIP program, five of these families will be given preference by the PHA per year. Assisting these families through HIP will help ensure that homeless individuals and families secure a permanent place to live.