



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

March 6, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director

Subject: **Authorizing a 1-year Contract Extension with Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOALA) from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, to Provide Services under the Pomona Homeless Outreach Services Program**

OVERVIEW

Recommendation – That the City Council:

1. Authorize a 1-year contract extension with Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOALA) from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, to provide services under the Pomona Homeless Outreach Services program.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact – The City's Rapid Rehousing Outreach Program, also known as the Permanent Supportive Housing Program under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Continuum of Care program, is budgeted at \$195,238 in the FY 2016-2017 Operating Budget under controllable contract services (241-1791-52285-58659). The City has received renewal funding from HUD for the FY 2017-2018 Operating Budget and staff will propose budgeting the same amount \$195,238 in 241-1791-52285-58670. These funds will be used to pay for the annual expenses associated with the contract.

Previous Council Action – On March 19, 2012, City Council approved an Inter-Agency Professional Services Agreement with VOALA to provide street outreach services for a period of 5-years beginning on April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2017. Although the term of the agreement was for 5 years, the grant and the contract term is renewed annually by the City Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current contract with VOALA for homeless outreach services in Pomona will expire March 31, 2017. Staff is recommending approval of a 1-year contract extension in order to continue providing these services for the City. A Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified service providers will be released during this extension period and a new 5-year Inter-Agency/Professional Services Agreement beginning in the new grant year, April 1, 2018 will be awarded following Council approval.

DISCUSSION:

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On March 19, 2012, the City Council approved an Inter-Agency Professional Services Agreement with VOALA to provide street outreach services for a period of 5-years beginning on April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2017. The 5-year contract is expiring and staff is requesting approval of an extension to the contract in order to allow VOALA to continue uninterrupted services to homeless individuals in the City of Pomona.

For the past 7 years, VOALA has been effectively utilizing federal funds to provide rapid re-housing (RRH) services for individuals who are chronically homeless throughout Los Angeles County. In this time, they have received \$2 million in federal funds for rapid re-housing, serving more than 600 individuals and families who were chronically homeless in SPAs 3, 6, and 7 through programs in Huntington Park, El Monte, and the City of Los Angeles. They have fully expended all government funds they have received for rapid re-housing for eligible expenditures in accordance with contract guidelines. They have also submitted all required financial and programmatic reports for our rapid re-housing contracts timely and accurately, and input all rapid re-housing program client data into HMIS as required by the contracts.

In addition to the above, over the last 5 years (2012-present) VOALA was subcontracted by the City of Pomona to operate a homeless outreach program through a four member team. The team operates both in the office and in the field to be available to those in need of services. The motto of the Outreach Team is “Helping People, Help Themselves”; to do this the Outreach Team leverages various resources throughout the City to provide housing resources and placement which include:

- Assertive Outreach and Engagement
- A Housing Focus
- Case Management
- Life Skills
- Care Coordination and Referrals
- Linkage to Medical care and mental health treatment and services
- Assistance with obtaining California ID cards
- Housing Assistance for qualified families

Throughout the years the Outreach Team has been expanding its services to the homeless of Pomona. The number of clients they have served can be seen in the table below. Each grant year runs from April 1st to March 31st. In grant year 16-17, VOALA experienced a significant decrease in auxiliary funding that assisted in the success of its outreach efforts. This decrease is reflected in the number of people served within the current grant year. Even with this decrease in auxiliary funding, the number of people housed to date in 2016-2017 as a result of the Outreach Team’s efforts is 125 out of 155.

Grant Year	Individuals Served
2012-2013	50
2013-2014	92
2014-2015	215
2015-2016	224
2016-2017 (4/1/2016-2/15/17)	155

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The Outreach Team performs an integral service to the homeless of Pomona and to the Pomona community. The Outreach Team is a key partner with the City in implementing various HUD COC grants and many strategies of Pomona's homeless strategic plan, "A Way Home". Many of the COC grants the City receives are implemented through or in collaboration with the Pomona Outreach Team. Because each HUD grant year for the City's COC grant programs is awarded to operate April 1st to March 31st and in order to ensure that there is no gap in the provision of services, staff is recommending approval of a 1-year contract extension to the original award to VOALA. The extension will allow services to continue seamlessly, while enabling city staff to release a new Request for Proposals (RFP) in keeping with the City's purchasing requirements. The release of an RFP will allow all qualified service providers to submit a proposal for operation of the City's Rapid Rehousing Outreach Program. The submitted proposals will then be reviewed and a recommendation for award of a 5-year contract to the most qualified service provider will be made to City Council for approval. The new contract period would begin April 1, 2018 and end March 31, 2023.