



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

February 26, 2018

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 Two Continuum of Care Program Grant Awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development totaling \$1,286,636 in Grant Funding for Permanent Supportive Housing and Homeless Outreach/Rapid Re-Housing Programs

OVERVIEW

Recommendation – That the City Council adopt the attached resolution:

1. Authorizing the acceptance of \$1,082,827 in Continuum of Care (CoC) program grant renewal funds awarded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to operate the Pomona Permanent Supportive Housing (Pomona PSH) Program, formerly known as the Shelter Plus Care program; and,
2. Authorizing the acceptance of \$203,809 in CoC program grant renewal funds, awarded through the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), by HUD to operate the Pomona Homeless Outreach/Rapid Re-Housing Program; and,
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 CoC programs for submittal to LAHSA and to HUD, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact – Adoption of the attached resolution will provide continued funding in the amount of \$1,082,827.00 in fund 218-1791 for the Pomona PSH Program and \$203,089 in fund 241-1791 to operate the Pomona Homeless Outreach/Rapid Re-Housing Program. Because each of these grant funds has historically been awarded annually on a renewal basis and the new funding was awarded prior to budget adoption, the revenue estimates and appropriations for these programs were approved as part of the City's 2017-2018 budget process and will be part of the 2018-19 budget process.

Previously Related Action – On June 12, 2017 City Council approved the 2017-18 City operating budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1995, each year the City of Pomona applies for annual renewal of HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding, as authorized by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act). This funding is awarded through the Los Angeles Continuum of Care lead agency, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-housing (RRH). The two programs funded for renewal are the Pomona Permanent Supportive Housing (Pomona PSH) Program, formerly known as the Shelter Plus Care program, in the amount of \$1,082,827 and the Pomona Street Outreach/ Rapid Re-housing program, in the amount of \$203,809.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The HEARTH Act enacted into law on May 20, 2009, consolidated three of the separate homeless assistance programs administered by HUD under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento) into a single grant program called the Continuum of Care (CoC) program. The HEARTH Act also codified into law the CoC planning process. As part of the planning process, one entity per planning area was identified as the CoC Collaborative Applicant. For Los Angeles County, the CoC Collaborative Applicant is LAHSA. Eligible applicants consisting of nonprofit organizations, State and local governments, and public housing agencies, must be designated by the CoC to submit an application to HUD for grant funds. The City of Pomona and the Pomona Housing Authority have been designated by LAHSA to submit three grant applications annually for renewal of three different CoC programs.

The Continuum of Care Program

The CoC Program is designed to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness and to provide the services needed to help such individuals move into transitional and permanent housing, with the goal of long-term stability. More broadly, the CoC Program is designed to promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness; improve coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness; improve data collection and performance measurement; and allow each community to tailor its programs to the particular strengths and challenges in assisting homeless individuals and families within that community.

Permanent Housing: Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing

Permanent housing (PH) is defined as community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible. The program funds two types of permanent housing: permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities and rapid re-housing.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

The Pomona Housing Authority's PSH program (formerly known as Shelter Plus Care) is funded under the COC, providing indefinite rental assistance paired with supportive services. The program is funded annually, with the City of Pomona receiving \$1,082,827 this year and assists homeless persons with disabilities or families with an adult or child member with a disability. In 2017, the PHA provided rental assistance to 81 households. Direct supportive services with case management were provided by Tri City Mental Health Center, Prototypes, VOALA and Foothill Aids Project as the program service partners.

In an effort to ensure that supportive services are available for participants of the PSH program, HUD requires that formal agreements, or MOUs, be in place between the PHA and the community partners providing the services. These MOUs outline the services to be provided and the reporting requirements necessary to meet the requirements of HUD.

Rapid Re-housing

Rapid re-housing (RRH) emphasizes housing search and relocation services and short- and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless persons and families as rapidly as possible into permanent housing. As a best practice, RRH appears to have encouraging outcomes such as: decreased length of homelessness, fewer returns to homelessness, lower costs per household than other interventions, and decreased homelessness in communities. A key element of RRH is the "Housing First" philosophy, which offers housing without preconditions such as employment, income, good credit or sobriety. If issues such as these need to be addressed, the household can address them most effectively once they are in housing.

With the passage of the HEARTH Act of 2009, HUD began to signal a movement away from funding supportive service only (SSO) programs and refocused efforts and funding to permanent housing programs. In order to secure continued funding for the Pomona Street Outreach program which was classified as a SSO program, the City requested and was granted reclassification of the program to RRH. The funding for the program remains the same, but the emphasis shifts to the three key components of a rapid rehousing program: housing identification, rental and move-in assistance (financial), and rapid re-housing case management.

Rapid Rehousing-Street Outreach Team: With this year's grant award of \$203,809, the City's Outreach Team continues to deploy mobile response, conduct daily outreach and respond to requests for assistance regarding homeless families and individuals living on the streets. Working within a Coordinated Entry System (CES), staff will continue to develop rapport and encourage homeless persons to accept shelter, housing and other support services.

In FY 2017, the Pomona Homeless Outreach Team provided outreach, linkage and case management services to 219 homeless people, of those served, 166 households exited the program and 114 of those households went on to permanent housing.

Pomona CoC Programs FY 2018

On January 11, 2018, the City was informed that once again it had been granted renewal funding by HUD in the total amount of \$1,286,636 for these two CoC programs. The PSH funding is awarded directly by HUD to the City and therefore direct contracts with HUD are necessary. The RRH funding is funded by HUD, through LAHSA, therefore the City is a subrecipient of LAHSA and a contract with LAHSA for this funding is necessary.

Attachment 1. Resolution