



# CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

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July 16, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council, sitting as the Governing Board for the Pomona Housing Authority

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager and Executive Director of the Pomona Housing Authority

Submitted By: Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director

Subject: **Authorization to Submit a Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to Fund a Family Unification Program for Qualified Families Facing Homelessness and Certain Foster Care Youth.**

## OVERVIEW

**Recommendation** – That the City Council, sitting as the Governing Board for the Pomona Housing Authority (PHA):

1. Authorize staff to submit the grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fund a Family Unification Program (FUP);
2. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as required by the FUP application, subject to City Attorney review and approval;
3. Authorizing the Executive Director to execute appropriate contracts and other documentation requested for submittal of application to HUD.

**Fiscal Impact** – There is no impact associated with this action. Any award of vouchers will be brought to City Council for appropriation. The maximum award amount will be based upon PHA size and HUDs identified need for such vouchers.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 25, 2018, HUD announced a funding opportunity for its Family Unification Program (FUP) to promote the unifying of families for whom a lack adequate housing is the primary factor in separation, or threat of imminent separation, of children from their families. The PHA requests the Board's approval to submit a grant application to support a Family Unification Program.

## DISCUSSION

The Family Unification Program (FUP) is a program under which housing assistance is provided under the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs) to two groups:

1. Families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in either:
  - The imminent placement of the family's child or children in out-of-home care.
  - The delay in the discharge of the child or children to the family from out-of-home care.
2. Youth at least 18 years old and not more than 24 years old who:
  - Left foster care at age 16 or older or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and
  - Are homeless; or
  - Are at risk of homelessness.

PHAs administer the FUP in partnership with PCWAs who are responsible for referring FUP families and youths to the PHA for determination of eligibility for rental assistance. Once the PCWA makes the referral, the PHA places the FUP applicant on its waiting list, determines whether the family or youth meets HCV program eligibility requirements, and conducts all other processes relating to voucher issuance and administration.

In addition to rental assistance, supportive services must be provided by the PCWA to FUP youths for the entire 18 months in which the youth participates in the program; examples of the skills targeted by these services include money management skills, job preparation, educational counseling, and proper nutrition and meal preparation.

Only PHAs that have an existing Annual Contribution Contract (ACC) with HUD for Housing Choice Vouchers are eligible to apply for funding under this announcement. Eligible PHAs must have demonstrated a commitment to administer FUP, which shall be verified by an executed MOU between the PHA, PCWA, and the jurisdictions Continuum of Care (CoC) lead, and in accordance with the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). HUD will only consider funding one application per PHA.

The current NOFA is for approximately \$30 million from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. HUD expects to make approximately 60 awards from the funds available under the NOFA. No fewer than five (5) units will be awarded to any qualifying PHA. Within the minimum and maximum award thresholds, HUD will allocate vouchers according to the selection process described in the NOFA.

If the application for funding is approved, the PHA will need to use the funds for eligible activities in the manner presented in the application as approved by HUD and in accordance with program regulations.

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As part of the application process, the PHA must submit a MOU executed by the Executive Director. The MOU execution date must be between the date the NOFA is published and the application deadline date under the NOFA. The MOU will be considered by HUD and the signatories (the PHA, PCWA and the CoC) as a complete statement of the responsibilities of the parties and evidence a commitment of resources to the FUP.

It is recommended that the City Council, sitting as the Governing Board for the PHA authorize staff to submit a grant application to HUD for the FUP.

Attachment 1: Resolution

Attachment 2: Draft FUP MOU