



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

November 19, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted by: Benita De Frank, Neighborhood Services Director

Subject: **Resolution Designating \$321,930 in Mental Health Services Act Funding from Tri City Mental Health Center to Volunteers of America Los Angeles as the Sub-Recipient under the Hope For Home Homeless Service Center Site Operator Agreement**

OVERVIEW

Recommendations - That the City Council approve a resolution:

1. Approve a resolution designating \$321,930 in Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) funding to Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOALA) as the sub-recipient under the Hope For Home (H4H) Homeless Service Center Site Operator Contract, related to an obligation to provide 28 beds to Tri City Mental Health Center (Tri City) from December 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, for eligible homeless clients at the Hope for Home Homeless Services Center pursuant to the MHSA funding agreement with Tri City, and,
2. Authorize the City Manager to sign all documents necessary to transfer funds, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact- No budgetary action is required as the appropriation for these funds is in the FY 2018-19 Operating Budget under Fund 215-1791-XXXXX-58681. The attached resolution memorializes the transfer of MSHA funding under the Tri City agreement to the H4H Services Center Site Operator Agreement with VOALA.

Previous Council Action - On August 6, 2018, Council authorized acceptance of \$357,700 in MHSA funding from Tri City, amending the FY 2018-2019 budget by the same amount, to reserve 28 beds at the H4H Homeless Services Center. On July 17, 2017 City Council approved award of a contract to VOALA as the selected operator and grantee of future funds identified to operate the Homeless Service Center for an initial 5-year period.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On August 6, 2018, the City Council authorized acceptance of \$357,700 in MHSA funding from Tri City, in return the City has agreed to reserve 28 beds at the H4H Homeless Services Center for Tri City to use for crisis housing of eligible homeless clients. Pursuant to the July 17, 2017 designation of VOALA as the agency selected by City Council to be the operator of the H4H Homeless Service Center for an initial 5-year period, VOALA has a current operating budget of \$1,571,199 for

operations. The MHSA funding partially pays for such costs. It is recommended that \$321,930 in MHSA funding be designated to VOALA to operate this program. This brings the operating budget up to \$1,893,129 for FY2018-19. The attached resolution documents such designation of funds.

BACKGROUND

Annually, Tri-City expends approximately \$500,000 in MHSA Full Service Partnership (FSP) funding, to provide housing assistance to approximately 100 homeless individuals, experiencing serious mental illness, that meet program eligibility criteria.

As part of the MHSA program, Tri City operates under the “housing first” philosophy and, historically, at the start of FSP treatment services, places homeless clients, aged 18+, in local motels, sober living homes, and at the Pomona Armory Winter Shelter when there is available space. Placing individual persons who are early on in treatment in motels and sober living homes presents various challenges and in general is not conducive for many in helping them to achieve stability in order to most effectively engage in on-going treatment services. With the opening of the H4H Homeless Service Center, Tri City will now have an optimally effective choice in providing housing to individual clients who are 18 and older and enrolled in its MHSA programs. As such, Tri City awarded \$357,000 to the City of Pomona to reserve 28 beds at the H4H Center from December 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 and to assist with costs necessary to start-up the Homeless Service Center including purchasing beds, bedding, office furniture and other needed items.

DISCUSSION

As the designated site operator of the H4H Homeless Service Center, VOALA has a current budget of \$1,571,199 for operating and start-up expenses. The City of Pomona provided \$1,381,787 of these funds to VOALA as awarded by Los Angeles County through Measure H to provide operating funds for their Coordinated Entry System Crisis Beds program at the H4H Homeless Service Center and \$189,412 in Emergency Solutions Grants funding. Totaled, these funds will pay for the operation of up to 112 crisis beds.

With this action, staff recommends that \$321,930 of the \$357,700 in MHSA funds awarded by Tri City to the City be designated to VOALA as the H4H site operator. \$207,760 of these funds will be used in the operation of 28 crisis beds from December 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 and the balance of \$114,170 will be used to assist with costs necessary to start-up the Homeless Service Center. The additional \$35,770 in funding has been retained by the City for administrative costs.

The addition of these designated funds to VOALA will bring the H4H Homeless Service Center operating budget up to \$1,893,129 to provide the following services to a total of 140 homeless persons nightly:

- Twenty-four (24) hour bed operation of facility,
- General Case Management, Residential Supervision and Crisis Intervention,
- Security,
- Meals,
- Restrooms and Showers