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# CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

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September 16, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Benita De Frank, Neighborhood Services Director

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT TO TRI CITY MENTAL HEALTH FOR SUBRECIPIENT SERVICES RELATED TO THE MEASURE H FUNDED CITY PLANNING AND HOMELESS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRI CITIES COHORT PROJECT, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$771,270.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council take the following actions:

- 1) Award a sole source contract to Tri City Mental Health (Tri City) for subrecipient services related to the Measure H funded City Planning and Homeless Program implementation of the Tri-Cities Cohort project for an amount not to exceed \$771,270.
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the contract award, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The City of Pomona applied for and was awarded Measure H funds under Los Angeles County's City Planning and Homeless Program grant totaling \$1,069,654. In seeking these funds, the City of Pomona submitted a multi-jurisdictional application, known as the Tri-Cities Cohort, which included the cities of LaVerne and Claremont. As the local mental health authority, the application also included Tri City Mental Health (Tri City) as the main provider of identified services under this grant. These services included: homeless prevention services, access to interim housing for families, and the development of a homeless resource community navigation program. These combined services were funded in the amount of \$771,270. The City of Pomona was identified as the fiscal agent for this application and therefore is responsible for grants administration.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Funds for this action in the amount of \$771,270 have been appropriated under Measure H Funding (139-1791-XXXXX-65405) in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 City Operating Budget.

**AUTHORITY:** In accordance with Section 2-977 (a) of the City's Purchasing Ordinance, Sole

Source for professional services over \$30,000 shall be approved by City Council.

**PREVIOUS RELATED ACTION:** On December 18, 2017, City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the acceptance of \$70,000 in Measure H Homeless Initiative City Planning Grant Funds to enhance the City of Pomona’s Homeless Strategic Plan – “A Way Home”. On July 2, 2018, City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the submission of the “City of Pomona Enhanced Strategic Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness” to the Los Angeles County, Chief Executive Office, outlining enhancements to the City of Pomona’s “A Way Home” Strategic Plan. On August 5, 2019, City Council adopted Resolution No. 2019-116 allowing the City to receive and appropriate \$1,069,654 in Measure H funding (139-1791-XXXXX-65405) to implement Priority Area 1 and Priority Area 2 services, acting as the fiscal agent for the Tri Cities Cohort, to enhance the City’s current efforts to address homelessness.

## **DISCUSSION:**

In 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved Measure H Homeless Initiative (HI) funding to cities to develop their own homelessness plans. In 2018, 41 cities throughout Los Angeles, including the City of Pomona, submitted their homelessness plans to the County. In September 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved \$9 million in Measure H funding for the Homeless Initiative and United Way Home for Good Funders Collaborative (Home for Good) to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for those eligible cities to implement their homelessness plans, either as individual cities or multi-jurisdictional partners.

The Home for Good RFP outlined two priority areas that would be considered for funding. Priority Area 1 focused on increasing the supply of interim and permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness and Priority Area 2 focused on enhancing the service system for those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

In response to the Home for Good RFP, the City of Pomona submitted two applications: 1) The City of Pomona: Individual Priority Area 1 application; and 2) The Tri-Cities Cohort: Multi-Jurisdictional Partnership Priority Area 1 and Priority Area 2 application. Both applications were funded.

### Tri-Cities Cohort: Multi-Jurisdictional Partnership Priority Area 1 and Priority Area 2 Application

The City of Pomona (as fiscal agent), along with the cities of Claremont and LaVerne proposed and were awarded \$1,069,654 in funding to develop programming and services efforts in both Priority Area 1 and Priority Area 2.

## ***Background***

The three cities that make up the Tri-Cities Cohort (Pomona, Claremont and LaVerne) have a long history of collaboration to strengthen the sub-regional continuum of care for people experiencing homelessness. Through the development of individual city strategic plans and through a collaborative outreach effort with Tri City, the sub-region’s designated mental health authority, the cities established collaborative goals and activities to address homelessness within the Tri-Cities area of San Gabriel Valley.

Most notably, these goals and activities focus on 1) exploring the establishment of a Regional Housing Trust Fund to further the development of affordable housing within the region and sub-region; 2) expanding access to shelter for individuals and families, including transitional age youth and seniors; 3) expanding short-term emergency services to prevent people from falling further into homelessness; and, 4) enhancing services for homeless families and individuals provided through Tri City.

Tri City was specifically written into the application to receive direct grant funding, not only because of the services they provide as the local mental health authority, but also because as an agency they are governed by the three cities under a joint powers authority (JPA) agreement.

### ***2019 Homeless Sub-regional Homeless Count***

As of January 2019, the three cities combined had a homeless count total of 746 persons, of which 266 were sheltered and 480 were unsheltered. Of those who were counted as unsheltered, Pomona shares 91.8% of the total number in the sub-region, where Claremont has 3.8% and La Verne has 4.4%. Tri City currently funds 28 of the Hope for Home crisis housing beds. Since the opening of Hope for Home in December 2019, Tri City has placed 46 homeless persons in the beds they fund; 45 of those people have been from Pomona and one was from Claremont.

### ***Priority Area 1 Funding – Interim Housing***

Within Priority Area 1 funding, the Tri-Cities Cohort have agreed to establish an interim housing program for individuals and families referred by the police and other departments of the three cities to Tri-City Homeless Resource Navigators (established under Priority Area 2 funding). This program will bridge the gap between when households identify as homeless or housing insecure and when they can self-resolve or access the County's Coordinated Entry System's resources.

Under the awarded contract, Tri City will be responsible for utilizing short-term motel vouchers and case management services to assist homeless families identified by the respective cities' first responders and staff. These vouchers will provide respite to six families at a time - two per city, per day, for 18 months. The three cities, through Claremont, have partnered with two motels located in Claremont to make these new interim housing resources available. Along with placement, Tri City will provide case management and resource navigation services to these families to help them access available funding and services. In addition, the Homeless Resource Navigators will provide referrals to Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOALA), as the operator of the Hope for Home Service Center, of single adults referred by the Police and other Departments of the three cities. Under a separate contract, VOALA will operate six beds — two per city, per day for up to 90 days, for 18 months — at Hope for Home, providing interim housing and case management service. All persons referred and utilizing both interim housing placements will be processed through the Coordinated Entry System (CES).

This portion of the Tri City contract award has a \$278,460 allocation.

### ***Priority Area 2 – Homeless Resource Community Navigators***

Under this grant, the Tri-Cities Cohort will implement six integrated activities that comprise a pilot program to strengthen the continuum of care within the sub-region. These activities will complement both County and City service systems by enabling Tri City to hire four dedicated full-time Homeless Resource Community Navigators to provide rapid response to homelessness within the cohort cities. As stated above, this response will be done in coordination with the three cities' police and other identified departments. In addition to the interim housing referral, once referred, Tri City will assist homeless families in navigating the Coordinated Entry System and local Family Solution Center, will conduct the referred family's VI-SPDAT assessment, and connect them with available housing and services. Tri City Homeless Resource Navigators will be housed at specified sites within each of the three cities to better coordinate with police and city staff.

This portion of the Tri City contract award has a \$362,310 allocation.

### ***Priority Area 2 – Homeless Prevention Services***

Finally, Tri City will be provided funding to assist the three cities in administering a homeless prevention program to help individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless. This assistance will be provided through rental or relocation assistance, utility arrears, and case management assistance.

This portion of the Tri City contract award has a \$130,500 allocation.

## **CONCLUSION**

The award of these funds to Tri City to work in coordination with the City of Pomona, as well as cities of Claremont and LaVerne, to provide interim housing to homeless families, to assist in the coordination of services, to provide homeless prevention services, and to create a streamlined approach to homeless resource community navigation services, will enhance the services available to those experiencing homelessness and will further assist the City of Pomona in meeting the goals outlined in the City's strategic plan to address homelessness – "A Way Home".

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES & GOALS:** This action supports City Council Goal K – to reduce the unsheltered homeless population by 10% annually and take actions to mitigate the impacts of homelessness on the community.

Prepare by:

Benita DeFrank  
Neighborhood Services Director