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# CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

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December 2, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Benita De Frank, Neighborhood Services Director

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$233,333 IN STATE HOMELESS EMERGENCY AID PROGRAM (HEAP) FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF AN ACCESS CENTER; AMEND THE FY2019-20 OPERATING BUDGET BY INCREASING REVENUE ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATING \$233,333 AND AMENDING THE AGREEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA LOS ANGELES BY AWARDED \$213,334 TO OPERATE THE ACCESS CENTER AS THE HOPE FOR HOME SERVICES CENTER SITE OPERATOR**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

- 1) Adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-186, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$233,333 IN STATE HOMELESS EMERGENCY AID PROGRAM (HEAP) FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF AN ACCESS CENTER, AMENDING THE FY2019-20 OPERATING BUDGET INCREASING REVENUE ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATING \$233,333 IN HEAP GRANT FUNDS, AND AMENDING THE AGREEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA LOS ANGELES BY AWARDED \$213,334 TO OPERATE THE ACCESS CENTER AS THE HOPE FOR HOME SERVICES CENTER SITE OPERATOR**

- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the contracts and other documentation requested for acceptance and implementation of the grant awards, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The City of Pomona applied for and was awarded \$233,333 in State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds to operate an Access Center at the Hope for Home Services Center. These funds were awarded by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), as the State designated Los Angeles Continuum of Care Lead. Staff is asking City Council to accept this award of funding, increase revenue estimates and appropriate the funding into the FY 2019-2020 operating budget, and to amend the Volunteer of America Los Angeles (VOALA)

agreement, as the Hope for Home Services Center Site Operator, to operate the Access Center for an amount not to exceed \$213,334.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This action will increase revenue estimates and appropriations by \$233,333 in State HEAP Funds (215-1791-XXXXXX-58708). Two hundred and three thousand, three hundred and thirty four (\$203,334) in funds will be appropriated to (215-1791-XXXXXX-58708) for program operation and \$29,999 will be appropriated to (215-1702-XXXXXX-58708) for grants administration.

**PREVIOUS RELATED ACTION:** On January 7, 2017 the City Council adopted “A Way Home: Community Solutions for Pomona’s Homeless” which included Strategy B1 - *Establish a Service Center for Centralization and Coordination of Services*. On July 17, 2017, City Council approved an award of contract to VOALA as the selected Hope for Home Services Center Site Operator for an initial 5-year period, identifying them as a sole source recipient of future funds identified to operate Hope for Home and its programs.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Earlier this year, the City of Pomona responded to LAHSA’s Request for Proposals (RFP), seeking funds to establish and operate an Access Center to provide critical services to homeless adults. According to LAHSA’s RFP, Access Centers must carry out the core site-based screening and access functions for the Coordinated Entry System (CES) including: initial screening, emergency service referrals, warm handoff referrals, supportive service referrals, initial assessment (CES Surveys), and case management for persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness. An Access Center must also provide supportive services in a Housing First, Low Barrier, and Harm Reduction approach to persons experiencing homelessness. These programs often operate in close collaboration with local and regional partners.

The City recently received word from LAHSA that our application for funding was approved by their Board of Commissioners and that the City was awarded \$233,333 in HEAP funding to operate an Access Center through June 30, 2020, with renewal funding through June 30, 2021 anticipated.

In an effort to operate the Access Center expeditiously, staff is recommending that \$213,334 of the funding received be passed-through to VOALA, as the Hope for Home Site Operator. This award includes \$203,334 for program operation and \$10,000 for administrative costs and will assist with the hiring of core Access Center staff, utility costs and maintenance of the building. The City will retain \$19,999 of the \$29,999 for grants administration.

### **Pomona’s Hope for Home Access Center**

In keeping with one of the core strategies of the City’s Strategic Plan to Combat Homelessness is Strategy B1 - *Establish a Service Center for Centralization and Coordination of Services*, the City’s Hope for Home Services Center was constructed with the operation of an Access Center in mind, with one building being dedicated to centralized coordination of services for homeless

adults. This building is scheduled to be completed by November 30, 2019, with full operation of the facility expected to commence beginning January 2020.

The main Access Center services will be provided by the Hope for Home Site Partners. These Site Partners include: VOALA, providing housing, case management and assessment services; Tri City Mental Health, providing mental health services; East Valley Community Health Center, providing health services; Prototypes providing substance disorder treatment services; and, Southern California Goodwill, providing employment services. Through the Access Center, and with a Use Agreement with the City of Pomona, each of these partners will provide services in their area of specialty to homeless adults. The Access Center will host a health clinic, counseling offices, case management offices, homeless outreach and housing service offices, and a conference room. Other services will also be hosted on an as-needed basis.

**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. Step 1 - Increase resource support to Hope for Home Services Center through grant applications to fully fund both the interim housing and access center programs by January 2020.

Prepare by:

Benita DeFrank  
Neighborhood Services Director