



CITY OF POMONA

COUNCIL REPORT

January 6, 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 to Amend the Agreement with Volunteers of America Los Angeles, as the Hope For Home Homeless Services Center Site Operator, to Implement Measure H Funded Programs.**

RECOMMENDATION:

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

- 1) Amend the Hope for Home Services Center Site Operator Agreement by \$194,004, to include the award of \$131,760 in Measure H funding to expand the crisis housing program at the Hope for Home Services Center by six beds and \$62,244 in Measure H funding to be used for the Transitional Storage Center for staff salaries.
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the contracts and other documentation requested for 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 Measure H Homeless Initiative funds in the amount of \$1,069,254 to implement a multi-jurisdictional project between the cities of Pomona, Claremont and LaVerne. Part of that award included \$194,004 to fund six interim housing beds and one staff position at the Transitional Storage Center. Both of these programs are currently operated at the Hope for Home Services Center (Hope for Home) by Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOALA) as the Site Operator. As such, it is requested that City Council amend the VOALA Site Operator Agreement, increasing funding levels by \$194,004 to expand existing programming.

FISCAL IMPACT: No budgetary action is required as the appropriation for these funds are in the FY 2019-20 Operating Budget under Fund 139-1791-XXXXX-65405.

PREVIOUS RELATED ACTION: On July 17, 2017, City Council approved the award of a contract to VOALA as the selected operator and grantee of future funds identified to operate Hope for Home for an initial 5-year period. On August 5, 2019, City Council adopted Resolution No. 2019-116 authorizing the City to receive and appropriate \$1,069,254 in Measure H funding, part of which was to enhance services at Hope for Home.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Pomona applied for and was awarded two grants totaling \$1,366,754 in Los Angeles County, Measure H Homeless Initiative funds. The first grant in the amount of \$297,500 was awarded to the City of Pomona to conduct a local land review of City-owned properties. The second grant, the Tri City Cohort project, in the amount of \$1,069,254, was a multi-jurisdictional application awarded to the three cities of Pomona, Claremont and LaVerne, with Pomona as the lead applicant. This grant was awarded to expand homeless prevention services, increase access to interim housing and enhance the system of services to homeless families and individuals within the three cities.

As part of the awarded Tri City Cohort project, \$194,004 of the funding was included to increase service capacity at Hope for Home. This increase includes \$131,760 for the operation of six crisis housing beds and \$62,244 to be used for a staff salary at the Transitional Storage Center.

As part of the Tri City Cohort project, six beds—two per city— will be reserved at Hope for Home, to provide crisis housing to six homeless single adults. Referral for these beds will be done in coordination with the police departments of the three cities, through the Tri City Homeless Navigator’s program. In addition, part of the funding will be used to enhance storage services at Hope for Home for the belongings of people experiencing homelessness.

As the designated site operator of Hope for Home, VOALA has a current budget of \$2,384,413 for operating 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 100 crisis housing beds, \$87,600 in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds to operate six crisis housing beds for Pomona Police referrals, \$356,425 in funding from Tri City Mental Health to operate 31 crisis housing beds and \$558,601 in Measure H and State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds to operate 50 bridge housing beds. With the inclusion of this \$194,004 in Measure H funds, the total annual operating budget for VOALA, as the Hope for Home Site Operator, will be \$2,578,417. This provides funding for a total of 193 interim housing beds and funds to operate the Transitional Storage Center that provides 388 storage lockers for homeless adults. Beginning December 1, 2019, the total number of funded beds being operated at Hope for Home is 205, with 12 beds being funded directly to VOALA through the County.

From December 5, 2018 to December 5, 2019, VOALA operated 134 interim housing beds per day. During that time period, they provided interim housing services to 377 (unduplicated) homeless adults. Of those served, 40 persons have been placed into permanent housing and 61 have been referred to other placements including: substance treatment facilities, family reunification, sober living, mental health facilities, other interim housing, etc.

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.

Prepared by:

Benita DeFrank
Neighborhood Services Director