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# CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

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September 21, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: James Makshanoff, City Manager

Submitted By: Benita De Frank, Neighborhood Services Director

**SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SGVCOG), TO RECEIVE TWO HOMELESS PROGRAM GRANTS TOTALING \$264,997, AMENDING THE FY 2020-21 OPERATING BUDGET BY INCREASING REVENUE ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE SAME AMOUNT**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

- 1) Adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-134 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA AUTHORIZING STAFF TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SGVCOG), TO RECEIVE TWO HOMELESS PROGRAM GRANTS TOTALING \$264,997, AMENDING THE FY 2020-21 OPERATING BUDGET BY INCREASING REVENUE ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE SAME AMOUNT.**

- 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 and received two grants from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG). On August 11, 2020 the City was awarded a total of \$264,997 in homeless program funding. The funding will assist with the implementation of the City's Homeless Plan and the development and application of a Homeless Prevention and Diversion Program.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Adoption of Resolution No. 2020-134 (Attachment 1) will amend the FY 2020-21 Operating Budget by increasing revenue estimates and appropriating \$250,000 (215-1791-XXXXX-58724) to implement the City's Homeless Plan and \$14,997 (139-1791-XXXXX-58724) for a Prevention and Diversion Program.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The SGVCOG was allocated \$5,625,000 in FY 2019-20 from the State Budget, at the request of State Senator Susan Rubio. The SGVCOG was also allotted \$1,541,876 by the County of Los Angeles, through a newly-developed Innovation Funds program, which allocated carry-over Measure H funding to the County's Councils of Governments. In January 2020, the SGVCOG worked with staff from its member cities to identify regional homeless program goals and to develop a framework and approach to distribute this funding.

### SGVCOG Implementation of the Prevention and Diversion Program

The proposed programs and formulas were designed to maximize regional programs in order to take advantage of economies of scale, ensure equity, and provide cities with the ability to access funds that could be used to implement their homeless plans. Funding was allocated to cities based on population for the implementation of their homeless plans. Each city was also allocated funding to develop and implement a Prevention and Diversion program related to homelessness and could apply for funding to implement innovative pilot programs. Finally, each city could opt-in to a regional landlord outreach and incentive program.

An overview of the activities and programs included in the City's scope of work can be found below:

### ***Homeless Plan Implementation (\$250,000)***

The City was allocated funding to implement its Homeless Plan. The funding will allow for the completion of the following tasks:

- A maximum of 10% of the City's funding for encampment clean-ups.
- A maximum of 20% of the City's funding for law enforcement outreach.
- Expansion of services with Neighborhood Legal Services Los Angeles (NLSLA) to address homeless and housing related legal issues and to improve the availability of legal services and representation to residents experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness.
- Create an interactive website with information related to homelessness that is accessible to the Pomona community.
- Provide services for clients in the City's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program, including supportive services and case management to those who are unhoused and are permanently disabled, in coordination with existing partnerships.

All funding must be expended by May 31, 2022.

***Homeless Prevention & Diversion Program (\$14,997)***

The City was granted funding to develop and implement a Homeless Prevention and Diversion Program. Homeless Prevention and Diversion Programs are targeted towards residents at-risk of becoming homeless or those who have recently become homeless. The intent of this program is to initiate “problem solving” conversations with a client in order to identify the actions needed to either ensure they remain in housing or move them quickly into housing. Potential outcomes based on problem solving conversations would include resolving conflicts with roommates, providing short-term rental assistance to prevent eviction, and helping a client reunite with family members.

SGVCOG requires all program administrators to have completed an approved problem-solving training course such as LAHSA’s Problem-Solving Training. The program will be administered by Volunteers of America (VOALA) at the Hope for Home (H4H) Access Center. VOALA has extensive experience administering Homeless Prevention and Diversion Programs.

Diversion, reunification, and problem solving includes motivational interviewing to engage individuals who arrive at the Access Center seeking services and resources available through their networks of family, friends, faith-based organizations, and local partner agencies. These conversations engage individuals to find short- or long-term housing to rapidly exit the homeless delivery system. In addition, the conversations focus on active listening, expressing empathy, helping individuals understand their goals, and empowering individuals to make their own choices.

In addition to the above, VOALA will assist individuals with conflict resolution, housing navigation, and/or housing stabilization. As part of these efforts, they will include H4H on-site partners such as Tri-City Mental Health, East Valley Community Health Center, Prototypes, and SoCal Goodwill. The H4H on-site partners provide critical services including prevention and diversion solutions such as crisis intervention, health screenings and assessments, mental health services, employment training, etc. As the program administer, VOALA will be required to track all clients served in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and must report client outcomes after problem-solving interventions as they are provided to the SGVCOG. All funding must be expended by June 15, 2021.

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES & GOALS:** This item 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:

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**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment No. 1 – Resolution No. 2020-134