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# CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

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November 16, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: James Makshanoff, City Manager

Submitted By: Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director

**SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION 2020-150, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$142,917 IN STATE HOMELESS EMERGENCY AID PROGRAM (HEAP) FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF AN ACCESS CENTER AND AMENDING THE AGREEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA LOS ANGELES BY AWARDED \$134,342 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. 2020-150 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$142,917 IN STATE HOMELESS EMERGENCY AID PROGRAM (HEAP) FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF AN ACCESS CENTER; AMEND THE FY 2020-21 OPERATING BUDGET BY INCREASING REVENUE ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATING \$26,250 FOR A NEW PROBLEM SOLVING SPECIALIST AND AMENDING THE AGREEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA LOS ANGELES BY AWARDED \$134,342 TO OPERATE THE ACCESS CENTER AS THE HOPE FOR HOME SERVICES CENTER SITE OPERATOR**

- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all agreements and any other documentation requested for acceptance of the award, distribution of the funding and operation of the Hope for Home Access Center Program, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On September 2, 2020, the City of Pomona was awarded \$142,917 in State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds to operate the Access Center at the Hope for Home Services Center from July 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020. The intent of this funding is to provide financial resources for direct operations and administrative costs associated with providing Access Center resources at the Hope for Home Services Center. Staff is recommending the acceptance of this award of funding and to amend the Volunteers of America Los Angeles Agreement, as the Hope for Home Service Center Site Operator.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Adoption of Resolution 2020-150 (Attachment 1) will accept one grant award from LAHSA, receiving a total of \$142,917 in State of California HEAP funds (215-17XX-XXXXXX-58725) from July 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020. Of the total award, \$116,667 is renewal funding where the revenue estimates and appropriations for this program was approved as part of the City's FY 2020-21 budget process. A revenue increase and appropriation is required to receive the remaining \$26,250 of the total award to fund the new Problem Solving Specialist position at the Hope for Home Access Center.

**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. On December 2, 2020, the City Council approved an award of \$233,333 in State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds to operate an Access Center at the Hope for Home Services Center from November 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Last 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.

On September 2, 2020, the City received LAHSA's intent to allocate renewal funding for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year in HEAP funding to operate the Pomona Access Center from July 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020, with extended funding through June 30, 2021 anticipated. LAHSA also awarded additional new funding to fund a Problem Solving Specialist at the Pomona Access Center.

The primary services at the Access Center are 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 provide services in their area of specialty to homeless adults. The Access Center hosts a health clinic, counseling offices, case management offices, homeless outreach and housing service offices, and a conference room. Other services hosted are 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.

Prepared by:

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Donyielle Holley  
Homeless Programs Supervisor

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment No. 1 – Resolution No. 2020-150