

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

January 23, 2020

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

FROM: SBCCOG Steering Committee

SUBJECT: Homeless Services Report – LA County Innovation Funds

Adherence to Strategic Plan:

Goal C: *Member Networking and Communications*. Sustain and strengthen Board and member commitment to SBCCOG and its initiatives.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

In November 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion to allocate \$6 million to the COGs to provide Innovation Funds for Homeless Services. The money per COG was determined by the numbers from the 2019 homeless count, and as a result, the SBCCOG expects to receive \$739,685 (12.33%).

The funds allocated to the COGs are specifically to support the two (2) priority areas set forth in the September 2018 Cities Homelessness Implementation Plan RFP:

- Priority Area 1 focusing on increasing the supply of permanent and interim housing for people experiencing homelessness, and
- Priority Area 2 focusing on enhancing County service systems for those experiencing and/or at-risk of homelessness.

Each COG is conducting its own process to determine how to utilize this funding and will have the flexibility to determine how the funding will be distributed to member cities or to use for regional programs.

On November 21, 2019, the SBCCOG issued a call for projects to the South Bay cities and service providers in SPA 8. The proposals were due December 16, 2019. The SBCCOG received ten (10) proposals from the following cities and service providers: El Segundo, Gardena, Inglewood, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Harbor Interfaith Services, PATH, and SBCCOG. Torrance submitted three proposals. See attached spreadsheet with project title and dollar amount requested.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

In conversations with LA County Homeless Initiative representatives, the County wants to see not only innovation, but also region-wide collaboration, with a focus on interim and permanent supportive housing. Several proposals requested funding for ongoing programs within their city, and others requested funding for programs that are similar in nature. Since we have only 45% of the funding to cover project proposals, we evaluated and grouped those that we could do as a region instead of funding the individual proposals to do the same programs at different proposed costs. A brief review of why projects were not recommended for funding:

- El Segundo – this is for an additional ride-along which is an expansion of current service
- Gardena – primarily for client aid and community education – to be done regionally

- Inglewood – primarily for shared housing and employee training – to be done regionally
- Redondo Beach – 2 of the proposals were continuation of existing programs, client aid (to be done regionally)
- Torrance – Safe parking to be done regionally and with possible LAHSA funding. RV vouchers – looking to seek funding from other sources (Measure W?)
- Harbor Interfaith Services – housing navigator and client aid – latter to be done regionally
- PATH – Safe parking – to be done regionally and with possible LAHSA funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING

City-specific proposals (\$295,287):

City of Torrance - \$50,000 to update 2016 homelessness plan. This amount is based on what LA County determined feasible for cities based on homeless population count when homelessness plans were developed in 2018. Torrance did not participate in that round of funding for developing homelessness plans. Through the Torrance plan, they will assess homeless populations, their dynamic needs, and opportunities to support these populations, as well as hire a consultant to assess potential opportunities to increase housing. Additionally, having an up to date homeless plan has been a requirement for being able to access other county funding, and this may continue as a requirement for future funding. There is still an overall LA County goal to have all 88 cities complete homelessness plans.

City of Redondo Beach - \$245,287 for Enhanced Response Pilot Program. This program incorporates an outreach/case manager/housing navigator into the prosecutors' program by attending court hearings at least once a month. During that time, outreach is conducted at the court, meeting individuals for the first time to begin the process of services and housing connections as well as assisting with structuring court orders based on an individuals' needs.

Region-wide programs (\$444,398):

- **Education and Training** for elected officials, city staff, business community, and the general public/community members. This training will be customized to the South Bay and particular areas within the South Bay and will include best practices in encountering someone experiencing homelessness, resources available, reporting, etc.
- **Home Sharing Pilot Program** will focus on matching homeowners who are able to rent out a room or a portion of their home or an ADU to a compatible qualified housemate/renter for long-term arrangements. This program will also include a partnership with SilverNest, an online matching program for homeowners and homeseekers, and SHARE! Collaborative, a program that provides affordable, permanent supportive housing in single-family.
- **Safe Parking.** Develop guidelines and identify locations for Safe Parking, including establish a standardized cost per vehicle per night, services provided (security, restrooms, wash basins, car registration and insurance, case management), explore a 6-month gym membership which will allow participant to shower, work out, etc. prior to going to work or school. It appears that LAHSA will be releasing an RFP sometime before March 2020 from which we would seek funding for site implementation.
- **Client Aid** will be available for all cities and agencies in the South Bay that will include motel vouchers, specifically to be provided to individuals 1-2 nights prior to a job interview or housing interview; assistance with first/last month's rent; security deposit,;

essential furniture, clothing, basic necessities and other forms of assistance as required and upon documentation.

- **Emergency Shelter and Interim Housing.** Review city ordinances related to emergency shelters and explore what it would take to become operational. Identify locations for potential interim housing.

RECOMMENDATION

The Homeless Task Force and the Steering Committee both reviewed the recommendations and endorse the plan for fund distribution. A more detailed funding plan and proposal for the regional funds will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at this meeting. Upon Board approval, a request for approval of the entire scope of work for the SBCCOG innovation funds will be sent to the County for their approval.

All proposals will be kept on file and if other funding sources become available, the proposals will be revisited.

City/Organization	Project Title	Contact People	Amount Requested	Total Funds for SBCCOG
El Segundo	El Segundo Police Department Homeless Initiative	Lt. Dan Kim	\$11,700.00	
Gardena	Gardena Homeless Plan	Jaclyn Coppa	\$25,000.00	
Inglewood	South Bay Housing Utilization Optimization Project	Damian Pipkins / Lori Jones / Roberto Chavez	\$50,000.00	
Redondo Beach	Redondo Beach Homelessness Projects	John LaRock	\$388,287.00	
Torrance	Torrance Homeless Plan Development	Domenica Megerdichian / Viet Hoang	\$70,000.00	
Torrance	Torrance Safe Parking Program	Domenica Megerdichian / Viet Hoang	\$425,000.00	
Torrance	Torrance Recreational Vehicles (RV) Voucher Program	Domenica Megerdichian / Viet Hoang	\$12,000.00	
Harbor Interfaith Services	Housing Navigator and Client Aid	Tahia Hayslet / Shari Weaver	\$127,119.00	
PATH	CSUDH Housing Project	Haley Fusilier / Courtney Reed	\$270,000.00	
SBCCOG	Home Sharing Pilot Project	Grace Farwell / Jacki Bacharach	\$254,369.00	
			\$1,633,475.00	\$739,685.00