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May 25, 2017

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
500 West Temple St, Ste 383  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: MEASURE H PLANNING GROUP FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) has participated in the Measure H Planning Group and provides the following comments and recommended changes to the Measure H funding recommendations:

**Comment No. 1 (Strategy E7):**

The Coordinated Entry System is central to the County's Homeless Initiative as it manages the initial interface with homeless residents and connects them with services. However, there is a critical element missing that will prevent achieving the mission and realizing this vision - namely the intentional engagement of local governments and regional governmental organizations as partners in this effort. There is in every strategy the recognition of the need and the resources to build the capacity of local service providers and community-based organizations; there is no such recognition or support for the role of local governments.

The SBCCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy E7:

- Allocate a portion of Measure H funds to be used to allow interested COG's to (1) hire/create an in-house COG Regional Homeless Coordinator and/or 2) to provide additional funding for homeless outreach teams. Both of these strategies would help expand capacity and facilitate coordination with regional member cities.

The South Bay Cities Council of Government has been successful over the past year with grant funds provided by Supervisors Hahn and Ridley Thomas, resulting in the placement of 90 formerly homeless individuals in housing. A COG Homeless Coordinator would coordinate and engage with COG member cities, regional service providers and their SPA to support the Coordinated Entry System and the Continuum of Care services for residents currently homeless and those who are at risk of becoming homeless. Expansion of SBCCOG's LA County-funded outreach teams would supplement, not supplant, District Two and District Four funding currently provided to the SBCCOG.

**Comment No. 2 (Strategy E6):**

Strategy E6 includes \$1,013 million per year for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for homeless outreach services. However, this strategy does not provide similar funding for cities that provide the same services.

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Rolling Hills Estates   Torrance   Los Angeles District #15   Los Angeles County

The SBCCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy E6:

- Provide a portion of Measure H funds under this strategy for local Police Departments to provide similar services within their cities.

**Comment No. 4 (Strategies D2 and D4):**

The program expansion for homeless inmates is a priority since it would offer all homeless inmates jail in reach services from the beginning of incarceration. By coordinating all services provided to homeless inmates, it would be possible to provide one case plan monitored by one assigned case manager, with the goal of ensuring strong service integration. Additionally, the expansion of Jail in-reach, in conjunction with the Re-entry Network, will help integrate high-quality mental health, physical health, and substance use disorder providers. It is necessary to include other law enforcement agencies to expand their capacity for Jail in-reach.

The SBCCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy D2 and D4:

- Increase funding under these strategies to allow city police departments to participate and to provide in-reach services to city jails.

**Comment No. 5 (Strategy C7):**

The subsidized employment program currently provides subsidized employment to GROW youths, aged 18 to 24. The existing program design and infrastructure could be leveraged and expanded to provide services countywide to adults.

The SBCCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy C7:

- Currently, the Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) temporary employment program only allows eight months of employment which is not long enough to make a long-term impact for the clients. Therefore, additional funds should be allocated to allow funding for temporary employment programs with longer durations of employment.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and participate in this process. We look forward to continuing our role in coordinating, leveraging and enhancing the work of our cities and service providers to combat homelessness. Should you have any questions, please contact our Executive Director at 310-293-2612.

Sincerely,

Jim Osborne, SBCCOG Chair  
Councilman, City of Lawndale

c.c.: SBCCOG Board of Directors

Supervisor Hilda Solis, First District  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Third District  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Fifth District

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District  
Supervisor Janice Hahn, Fourth District