



SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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July 15, 2020

Ms. Sachi Hamai
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
5555 Ferguson Drive, Suite 220
Commerce, CA 90022

RE: Comments on Measure H Draft Recommendations FY 20-21

Dear Ms. Hamai:

On behalf of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, I would like to offer comments regarding the Measure H draft recommendations for FY 20-21.

- 1) A1-A5: Homeless Prevention Program – these strategies are to identify, assess, and prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless by addressing rental/housing subsidies, case management and employment services, and legal services. Strategies A1 and A5 are to be funded by Measure H for the first 4 months (July-October), with the expectation of funding from other sources to bring the amount up to the FY 19-20 allocation of \$11.5M for each strategy. With the increasing disparity of those who exit homelessness (207 every day) to those who fall into homelessness (227 every day), more funding needs to be provided for prevention services and there should be attention on publicizing how those in danger of losing their homes can get help.

Additionally, it would be very helpful for the COGs to receive guidance on a process and detailed strategies that can be used to work with our local municipalities and community organizations to help those in danger of falling into homelessness. We anticipate that COVID and the current economic downturn will make the threat of homelessness worse for many. Unless we address prevention in a more concerted fashion, we are never going to work our way out of this problem.

- 2) E-7: Strengthen the Coordinated Entry System (CES) – the proposal is to reduce or eliminate funding from CES program components, including housing navigation. We were told that outreach was being cutback so that more services could be provided to those in the system already. The recommendation is a \$1M reduction in housing navigation services. Housing navigators are crucial to help people find their way to a home. We believe that there should be a greater emphasis on finding ways to house people and match them to the appropriate services. Therefore, the SBCCOG is not in favor of the reduction of funding to housing navigation services, but rather we want to ensure SPA 8 has the continued ability to build comprehensive teams that are creatively finding housing resources for those in need.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles District #15 Los Angeles County

- 3) Councils of Governments (COGs) are important and necessary partners with LA County, and as such, we must be notified in a timely manner of appropriate information to share with our member-cities. The SBCCOG only recently learned of a LAHSA document regarding Prevention Assistance and how this program can be accessed. This is a document that we have now shared with our South Bay cities, but we could provide them with so much more information and resources if we got them in a timely manner and didn't have to discover them on our own.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olivia J. Valentine". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Olivia Valentine, SBCCOG Chair
Councilmember, City of Hawthorne

CC: Mr. Phil Ansell, Director, LACHI
Ms. Ashlee Oh, LACHI
Ms. Heidi Marston, Executive Director, LAHSA