

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Committee, This is to provide background on the urgent request from 1736 Family Crisis Center's Western Bridge Home (WBH) shelter located in Council District 10 and serving homeless women from all City districts. The request was submitted to the Committee on our organization's behalf by Councilmember Heather Hutt. Our 15-bed shelter, which is the subject of this request opened in September 2020 as a collaborative between the Mayor (then Eric Garcetti), CD 10 (then Herb Wesson), and community partners including LAHSA for funding. The WBH serves homeless, unaccompanied women through referrals from the LA CoC Coordinated Entry System. It provides 24-hour bridge/crisis shelter and supportive services and provides them access to interim shelter, food, and supportive services to effectively help them transition to stable housing. The WBH is a vital community asset and has become known to the surrounding neighborhoods through outreach and community activities/events. There are no eligibility requirements; our purpose simply is to get unhoused women off the streets and into safety. The shelter operates at its full capacity. The WBH has a documented high rate of success in achieving permanent housing and creating a support structure around each resident. This is attributable to our program structure and 24-hour crisis and case support services, our planning and assistance in housing clients immediately (rather than back to the streets), and our follow up efforts with each case. At this crucial time, we urgently ask for your support to keep WBH open. The original approved budget of \$479,400.00 through our LAHSA contract was expended at the end of March. We are seeking \$180,000 to be able to complete this fiscal year. LAHSA issued a formal approval on May 2, 2024 (please see attached communication). However, when we checked in to see if we could invoice, we were told it had not been approved. We are currently operating with no available funds. \$180,000 will make us whole and allow us to operate through June 30, 2024. Going into the new fiscal year, we request that the City continue to fund the WBH at this new level of funding. Instead of an annual shelter budget of \$479,400, we ask that this level be increased by \$180,000 making the new annual shelter budget for WBH to be \$659,400. We also want to provide you with a summary of 1736 Family Crisis Center to familiarize

yourself with our agency programs and services within the City of Los Angeles and greater Los Angeles area. 1736 FCC serves populations that have been historically unserved or underserved within Los Angeles and Orange counties. These populations include homeless children, homeless veterans, domestic violence victims and their babies and young children, pregnant women, human trafficking victims including teenagers, and other children or adults experiencing homelessness and severe victimization, Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), undocumented immigrants, monolingual Spanish-speaking, LGBTQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, and extremely low-income individuals and families. Thank you.