

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: March 17, 2022

CAO File No. 0220-05151-0331

Council File No. 20-1524

Council District: All

To: City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo,  City Administrative Officer

Reference: C.F. 20-1524

Subject: Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Grant Program Round 2
Supplemental Youth Set-Aside Goals

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council APPROVE the following youth set-aside goals for the City's Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Round 2 grant funding:

1. The City will increase its interim housing capacity to help reduce the number of young people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles.
2. The City will increase the availability of permanent housing solutions for youth experiencing homelessness to ensure a connection between interim and permanent housing for youth.
3. The City will continue to engage its partners, including Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), homeless service providers, community stakeholders, the State of California, and the Federal government, to ensure strategic coordination of, and investment in, a comprehensive strategy to reduce youth homelessness.

BACKGROUND

On January 22, 2021, the City Administrative Officer (CAO) applied for the State of California HHAP Round 2 (HHAP-2) funding for the City. The HHAP-2 program is a \$300 million block grant program designed to provide jurisdictions with one-time grant funds to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address homelessness. HHAP-2 funding was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on June 29, 2020.

The City received a HHAP-2 allocation of \$55,575,000.00, the majority of which has already been programmed to support ongoing operational costs of the COVID-19 Homelessness Roadmap (C.F. 20-0841) and the City's A Bridge Home program (C.F. 18-0600), as well as for additional parts of the City's homelessness response, including street strategies, outreach, public health,

and hygiene in Skid Row and citywide. Similar to the requirements for HHAP Round 1 funding, HHAP-2 requires that at least 8 percent of a grantee's funding allocation be expended on services for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, between the ages of 12 and 24 years old. HHAP-2 grantees are also required to submit a clear, measurable, youth-specific performance goal. The total amount of the City's HHAP-2 youth set-aside is \$4,446,000.00.

In December 2021, the CAO was notified by the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) that the City was being offered technical assistance to help refine its youth goal from the initial HHAP-2 application. In February 2022, staff from the CAO and the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) met with representatives from the Cal ICH's contracted technical assistance provider, the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), to discuss the City's youth set-aside goals. This meeting also included representatives from Abt Associates and Housing Justice Collective, two organizations that are providing technical assistance to LAHSA as a part of its recent \$15 million Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The YHDP grant is offered by HUD to encourage homeless service systems and Continuums of Care (CoCs) to develop and execute a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. Only CoCs are eligible to apply. LAHSA, which administers the Los Angeles area's CoC, received its \$15 million YHDP grant at the end of 2021.

In the City's early conversations with TAC, Abt Associates, and the Housing Justice Collective, it became apparent that the technical assistance and planning process being provided to LAHSA and the larger YHDP collaborative, was similar to the City's process for further developing its HHAP-2 youth set-aside goals. The CAO and CLA both now participate in regular meetings with LAHSA, City departments, including the Los Angeles Housing Department and the new Youth Development Department, and other partners to coordinate YHDP planning efforts. These efforts, while focused on policies and programming priorities for the grant funding, also include the creation of metrics to measure the impact of these programs on reducing youth homelessness.

The CAO proposes the following HHAP-2 youth set-aside goals:

- The City will increase its interim housing capacity to help reduce the number of young people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles.
- The City will increase the availability of permanent housing solutions for youth experiencing homelessness to ensure a connection between interim and permanent housing for youth.
- The City will continue to engage its partners, including Los Angeles County, the Los LAHSA, homeless service providers, community stakeholders, the State of California, and the Federal government, to ensure strategic coordination of, and investment in, a comprehensive strategy to reduce youth homelessness.

While the City was required to submit its HHAP-2 supplemental racial equity goal to the State by the end of February 2022, the City is required to submit its supplemental youth set-aside goals by the end of March 2022. Upon submitting its youth set-aside goal to the State, the City will then be able to expend its HHAP-2 funding allocation.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no impact to the General Fund or to HHAP-2 funds as a result of the recommendations in this report.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies.

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