

MOTION

The California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) developed a Medi-Cal Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan detailing a series of initiatives that will enhance, expand and strengthen HCBS in California. The Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) is one of the HCBS Transitions initiatives, which aim to expand and enhance programs that facilitate individuals transitioning to community-based, independent living arrangements.

HHIP provides incentive funds to Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans to address homelessness and housing insecurity as social determinants of health. \$1.288 billion of one-time funding will be available through March 31, 2024. It is anticipated L.A. Care and Health Net, two Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans within Los Angeles County will receive approximately \$405M to develop the capacity and partnerships to connect Medi-Cal members to needed housing services and to reduce and prevent homelessness.

HHIP seeks to improve access to coordinated housing, health and other social services by providing rapid rehousing for Medi-Cal families and youth, interim housing for aging and disabled populations, and providing funding for housing navigation, housing deposits, housing tenancy and sustaining services, recuperative care, short-term post-hospitalization housing, and day habilitation programs. HHIP will also provide funding to expand street medicine programs.

The City of Los Angeles has built thousands of interim, transition, and permanent supportive housing and funds supportive services and time-limited subsidies to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Funding for more housing navigation and housing sustaining services is a critical component of managing these housing resources to ensure successful throughput into permanent housing. Housing navigation provided by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is limited to a set number of interventions and HHIP funding can increase the capacity for more housing navigation and sustaining services, enabling more funding to be directed towards building housing and rental subsidy programs.

In alignment with HHIP, the City of Los Angeles is expanding street medicine programs and recuperative care and short-term post-hospitalization housing and will need to closely work with County Departments and service providers to coordinate patient care. Equally important, as HHIP recognizes, is the need to strengthen data sharing between HMIS and other data systems to improve the health of people experiencing homelessness.

Managed Care Plans have engaged core stakeholder groups including: the four Continuums of Care in Los Angeles County - Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority, Glendale, Long Beach and Pasadena, the Los Angeles County CEO - Homeless Initiatives, the Department of Health Services, Department of Mental Health, and Department of Public Health. The City of Los Angeles should be engaged in the planning and implementation of the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program to ensure the most effective use of this one-time funding and to avoid duplication of efforts.

I THEREFORE MOVE to instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and City Administrative Officer (CAO) to report on the Local Homelessness Plan and Investment Plan of Los Angeles County submitted to DHCS, and how the City can be an active partner in meeting the priorities set by HHIP.

I FURTHER MOVE to instruct the CAO and the CLA to report on future funding needs to continue and expand street medicine and mobile health/mental health van programs in the City, utilizing HHIP and other funding sources.

I FURTHER MOVE to instruct the CAO and CLA, with the assistance from LAHSA to report on how much funding can be supplanted from current expenditures on housing navigation and other housing sustaining services with HHIP funding.

I FURTHER MOVE to request the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to report on HHIP priorities shared with the Managed Care Plans for the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, along with budget for housing navigation and housing sustaining services for this current and next fiscal year.

I FURTHER MOVE to request the City Health Commission to report on the health, mental health and behavioral health needs of people experiencing homelessness in the City and how best to align the delivery of these services with the priorities set by HHIP.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ

ORIGINAL