

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: April 3, 2020

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *Sharon M. Tso for* Council File No.: 18-0628
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No.: 20-04-0361

SUBJECT: Supplemental Recommendations to Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Report (C.F.: 18-0628)

SUMMARY

On February 27, 2020, the Homeless Strategy Committee (HSC) approved a report from the City Administrative Officer (CAO) relative to the State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) – Fourth Quarterly Expenditure Report and Reprogramming Recommendations. Subsequent to the release of the HEAP Report, additional actions are needed in order to fund additional activities in Skid Row and to expedite funding for homeless families in the Valley. In order to take these actions, our Office requests that the City Clerk schedule this report in Council, concurrently with the report from the Homeless Strategy Committee.

BACKGROUND

The City provided partial funding to the Downtown Women’s Center (DWC) to start a Trauma-Informed Enhanced Bridge Housing program in August of 2019. The funding allowed DWC to make renovations to its Access Center, including adding locked storage space for personal items and purchasing new tables, chairs, and beds to easily convert the space from Access Center by day to Bridge Housing by night. The purpose of DWC’s Bridge Housing is to provide safe accommodation and continuity of care for unhoused women in Skid Row who are in the process of pursuing housing through DWC’s Rapid Rehousing, Housing Navigation, Housing for Health, and the newly added 100 Women Initiative. In order to sustain the progress started within the Trauma-Informed Enhanced Bridge Housing and to ensure the success of the 100 Women Initiative, DWC is requesting \$350,000 for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Additionally, in January 2019, the Council approved a HEAP Report which allocated \$540,000 for LAHSA to implement a Problem Solving/Diversion Services Program. As of the last HEAP Quarterly Report (released on March 12, 2020), this line item has been underutilized. In the same January 2019 Report, HEAP funding was allocated for family services in Council District 6 and 7. At this time, it is being recommended that \$120,000 from the Problem Solving line item be reprogrammed to homeless families program in Council District 6 and 7 to increase family services for an additional year. Furthermore, it is being recommended that LAHSA subcontract with Watts Labor Community Action Center for \$100,000 to implement the Problem Solving program for families in Service Planning Area 4.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, relative to the communication from Homeless Strategy Committee relative to the State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Fourth Quarterly Expenditure Report (October 1 - December 31, 2019) and reprogramming recommendations, adopt the following additional recommendations:

- 1) AUTHORIZE the Controller to appropriate \$350,000 from Fund 60P/10R631 AC-2 Capital and Operating Support - Skid Row and transfer to Fund 60P/43R833 Downtown Women's Center and increase Account No. 43R833 by \$350,000;
- 2) INSTRUCT the General Manager, Housing + Community Investment Department, to increase Contract C-133135 with Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority by \$350,000 for Downtown Women's Center to continue their bridge housing program;
- 3) REQUEST that Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority subcontract with Downtown Women's Center to continue their bridge housing program through June 30, 2021;
- 4) REPROGRAM \$120,000 of previously allocated and unutilized HEAP grant funds from the Problem Solving Program line item to the Homeless Families program in Council District 6 and 7 to increase its services;
- 5) INSTRUCT General Manager, Housing + Community Investment Department, or designee, to amend Contract C-133135 with Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to reprogram \$120,000, as follows:
 - a) Decrease Problem Solving at FamilySource Centers by \$120,000; and
 - b) Increase Services for Homeless Families in CD 6 and CD 7 by \$120,000.
- 6) AUTHORIZE the Controller to transfer \$120,000 from the HEAP – LAHSA Diversion Family Source Center, Fund No. 60P, Account No. 43R837 to the Sepulveda Blvd. Motel Initiative, Fund No. 60P, Account No. 43R839;
- 7) REQUEST LAHSA to:
 - a) Subcontract with New Economics for Women for an amount of \$120,000, to coordinate Services for Homeless families in CD 6 and CD 7 for the term of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; and
 - b) Subcontract with Watts Labor Community Action Center for \$100,000 to implement Problem Solving for families at risk of homelessness in Service Planning Area 4.
- 8) INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer be directed to prepare any additional Controller instructions or make any necessary technical corrections or clarifications consistent with the Mayor and Council action in this matter, and authorize the Controller to implement these instructions.

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Analyst