
Homeless Services Advisory Committee Community Capacity Building Subcommittee

Date: November 4, 2022

Item: His Little Feet Mayor's Fund Application

Staff Analysis:

The staff has reviewed the proposal submitted by His Little Feet, on September 30, 2022, by Erin Wilson, Grant Writer.

His Little Feet (HLF) is a non-profit organization started in 2014 and created to provide well-fitting shoes for children experiencing homelessness. HLF is one of the only organizations in Southern California that solely provide new footwear to children experiencing homelessness. HLF has distributed nearly 20,000 pairs of shoes to underserved children and young adults ages 1.5-18 across 30 agencies in Southern California. Their goal for 2023 is to provide 2,000 pairs of shoes to youth ages 1.5-18 years old experiencing neglect and extreme poverty.

They collect, purchase, and distribute new shoes, socks and supplies to shelters, programs, and schools, to help children in need. They do this by partnering with agencies that serve underprivileged youth (primarily in the foster care and child services system) in the greater Long Beach area. As part of the program, they give new athletic shoes that provide physical, mental, and emotional support to a young person already stigmatized by the trauma of homelessness. They serve about an average of 75 individuals a month.

This proposal meets the intent of the Mayor's Fund to End Homelessness under the qualification of critical infrastructure and improvements and repairs for the program. Their proposal requests \$10,000 in reimbursement funding to cover the cost of 100 pairs of new shoes (\$6,000), office equipment (\$1,500) and office furniture (\$2,500).

As of October 31, 2022, the Mayor's Fund has a balance of \$112,654.77, with \$77,654.77 available after outstanding funding awards.

City staff requested additional clarification from HLF, which is included below.

Clarifying Questions via E-mail on October 18th:

In the application there is a request for \$10,000, however, the budget breakdown totals to \$18,750. Can you submit one for the \$10,000? (*Revised budget submitted*)

Providing new and safe shoes for children experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty.

\$6,000	Program Cost -100 pairs of new shoes
\$1,500	Equipment (computer, printer, and software)
\$2,500	Office Furniture (2 chairs/ desks, conference table, filing cabinet)
\$10,000	TOTAL

Within that, there is a request for salaries, with the mayor's fund being intended not to be emergency funding or programmatic funding, how will you be able to sustain this position? (*HLF resubmit the new budget with a new narrative*)

Looking back over the grant application, I see how I was confused and sent you the wrong budget. I have rewritten to fit the scope of the Mayor's Fund perimeters, including removing all salary and benefit costs, and adding new furniture costs, which we are in great need of (all office furniture was donated used and is falling apart).

His Little Feet is the only 501(c) 3 in Long Beach providing brand new, safe athletic shoes to students and children. Besides building good bone and foot health, new shoes address a socio-economic issue. Youth under the poverty line face so many insecurities and stigmas. Providing name brand desirable shoes for them helps offer self-esteem and school confidence, leading to readiness and higher attendance. HLF is requesting \$10,000 to provide new shoes for Long Beach Unified students distributed through our five city partners and Back to School event. Monies would also be used to purchase a computer for our new first-time Program Director.

Our worry is that we are supposed to target homelessness in the City of Long Beach, how can ensure these funds will be used towards homeless individuals?

His Little Feet has been supporting students and young people below the poverty line in Long Beach since our inception in 2012, and this demographic will always be our priority. We have several direct partnerships with Long Beach-based service providers, including Bethune Student Support Services for LBUSD, Precious Lamb Preschool, Lydia House, and Safe Families foster support program. Additionally, His Little Feet provides new shoes on an as-needed basis for LBUSD students and refugees. Supporting data can be found on our website, newsletter archives, 990's, and budget reports.

Website : <https://www.hislitfeet.org/>