



CITY OF LONG BEACH

HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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April 4, 2006

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the 2006 Continuum of Care for Homeless Assistance Program and execute all necessary documents, subgrants and any amendments changing the amounts of the award or extending the grant term upon receipt of HUD funding. The Grant award amount will be between \$4 million and \$7 million, for a period of 1 to 3 years. Funding will be made available through HUD and an appropriation requested in the Health Fund (SR 130) and in the Department of Health and Human Services (HE) through the Fiscal Year 07 budget process. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

In 1994, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) established the Continuum of Care (CoC) program, which rewards communities that work together to coordinate housing and supportive service programs for homeless persons. The driving force behind this effort is to encourage the development of a seamless strategy to aid individuals in the transition from homelessness to permanent housing. The CoC's primary objective is to assist homeless individuals and families to leave the streets, become stable, and achieve self-sufficiency to the maximum extent possible. The CoC consists of five components: 1) outreach and assessment, 2) emergency shelter, 3) supportive services, 4) transitional housing, and 5) permanent housing with and without supportive services. As part of the CoC, the community must demonstrate how all available funds and programs are used to augment CoC funds. Available funds include, but are not limited to: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME funds, Section 8 federal funds, Public Housing funds, and other state, city, county, private, and foundation funds.

CoC funds have a recommended formula allocation for each jurisdiction, which is established by HUD and tied to poverty and population data. This formula is low and is not the only basis for funding requested in the application. The application to HUD is a competitive application. Upon review by HUD, the quality of the application is taken into consideration, and since 1996, the City has received an allocation over the formula amount as the result of a high score on the application.

There are three fundable options for permanent housing under the CoC: Shelter Plus Care, Permanent Housing for Persons with Disabilities, and Single Room Occupancy projects. Outside of permanent housing, CoC dollars can be used for Transitional Housing, Safe Havens, and Supportive Services Only Projects (See Attachment 1).

On May 3, 2005, the City Council approved the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to be the lead applicant for the 2005 CoC for Homeless Assistance Program. DHHS was subsequently granted \$3.8 million to fund one new and 29 renewal programs (Attachment 2). Attached is a listing of agencies that will potentially be funded in the 2006 process as part of the City's funding allocation (Attachment 3). Also attached is a timeline for the CoC process (Attachment 4).

Funding from HUD is available for the 2006 Continuum of Care for Homeless Assistance Program to provide the above mentioned community services for the homeless.

City Council approval is requested for the City to apply for between \$4 and \$7 million per year through the 2006 Continuum of Care for Homeless Assistance Program. These funds will renew existing programs and fund new Long Beach homeless assistance programs.

The City's Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) will meet to establish funding priorities; the priorities will be based on the following HUD guidelines: 1) fund permanent housing exclusively serving chronically homeless single men and women; and 2) fund permanent housing for persons (individuals and families) with disabilities. HUD has moved away from funding Supportive Services Only Projects. The HSAC is requesting that the DHHS be the lead grantee. Sub-grantees will be chosen through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process conducted by the DHHS as part of the application process outlined in Attachment 3. As a result of this authorization, the DHHS will be responsible for compiling the application, including the proposed sub-grantees, for submission to HUD. Upon award, the DHHS will monitor the performance of all program sub-grantees to ensure compliance with grant requirements. The City's Department of Community Development, Housing Authority Bureau, will administer any shelter plus care rental subsidies received.

This matter was reviewed by Senior Deputy City Attorney Donna Gwin on March 25, 2006 and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on March 27, 2006.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on April 4, 2006 to allow DHHS to begin the process of responding to the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the grant application process.

FISCAL IMPACT

If awarded, the grant is estimated to be between \$4 and \$7 million per year. Funding will be made available through HUD and appropriation requested in the Health Fund (SR 130) and in the Department of Health and Human Services (HE) through the Fiscal Year 07 budget process.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Shelton, Chair
Homeless Services Advisory Committee

By:



RONALD R. ARIAS
DIRECTOR
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Attachments