



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



July 14, 2020

File ID: 20-0269

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA: (1) AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A \$452,979 HOMELESS EMERGENCY AID PROGRAM (HEAP) GRANT FROM THE REGIONAL TASK FORCE ON THE HOMELESS; (2) APPROVING AGREEMENTS WITH THE REGIONAL TASK FORCE ON THE HOMELESS AND WITH NATIONAL CITY AND THE ALPHA PROJECT TO IMPLEMENT THE CHULA VISTA-NATIONAL CITY REGIONAL HOMELESS PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE SAME; AND (3) APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR (4/5 VOTE REQUIRED)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

In March 2019, the City of Chula Vista, in partnership with the City of National City and Alpha Project, submitted a Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding application to the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH). In June 2020, the City received notification of the availability of the second year's grant award in the amount of \$452,979 to continue the Chula Vista-National City Regional Homeless Program. In order to proceed with the program, the City must enter into its second-year agreements with the RTFH for the HEAP funds and the City of National City and Alpha Project for program implementation. This item seeks to formally accept the grant funds, authorize execution of the corresponding agreements, and appropriate the funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Development Services Director has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378(b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines because the proposal consists of a reporting action, is not for a site-specific project(s) and will not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environmental. Therefore, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines the activity is not subject to CEQA. Under NEPA, the activity is exempt pursuant to Title 24, Part 58.34(a)(2)&(3) of the Code of Federal Regulations and pursuant to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Environmental Guidelines. Thus, no further environmental review is necessary at this time.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION

In 2018, the State of California enacted HEAP as part of California Senate Bill 850, which provides \$500 million in block grants to cities and counties to address homelessness throughout the State. HEAP funds provide one-time, flexible block grant funds to address immediate homelessness challenges, including prevention, criminal justice diversion programs to unsheltered individuals with mental health needs, and emergency aid. On January 31, 2019, the San Diego RTFH, as the region's Continuum of Care (CoC), released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for an estimated \$18.8 million of the region's HEAP funds to be allocated over a two-year period.

HEAP Application and Award

Chula Vista and National City, with its collaborative partners, applied for HEAP funding to replicate the current best practices of each city for implementation within both cities. The goal of the partnership is to provide a consistent, results-based and multidisciplinary approach to serving the homeless including:

- Coordinated outreach to include law enforcement and a social service provider;
- Employment program;
- Bridge housing; and
- Transportation.

In May 2019, the City received notification that the Chula Vista-National City partnership had been awarded \$905,958 in HEAP funds over a two-year period.

In September 2019, the City began implementation of its homeless strategy through the newly established South Bay Homeless Alliance. The City maximized its partnerships with existing agencies and programs with proven experience utilizing and performing under State and Federal grant programs. These partnerships have continued to work towards alleviating the effects of homelessness and addressing the short-term needs of those experiencing homelessness to foster long-term housing stability.

Despite the challenges Covid-19 presented during the first year, the team was able to adjust and overcome by redesigning its outreach efforts while adhering to the mandated social distancing requirements. Managing homelessness in our community is a complex issue that requires commitment, dedication and coordination that did not wane even during the current health crisis.

Through the 2019/2020 efforts, the team continued to engage unsheltered individuals and families who were disconnected and estranged from mainstream services. Such efforts helped to establish supportive relationships and enhanced the participation in the necessary services and support that are part of the journey towards movement off the streets. While the ultimate goal is to have an unsheltered person move into permanent housing, this does not define the success of the program. The complexity of each individual story requires unique steps towards stability in housing. Participation in each of those steps that may include obtaining an identification card, signing up for benefits, or seeking health care represents a "win" and a goal achieved. Each outreach touchpoint builds trust and relationships that allow our homeless to re-engage with

a hope for healing, recovery and more stable housing. Below is a summary of the successes of the first year of the HEAP program.

Activity	Number of Participants
Outreach Touchpoints	671 (204 Unduplicated Clients)
Hotel/Motel Vouchers	18
Permanent Housing (City Tenant-Based Rental Assistance)	6
Permanent Housing (County Project One for All)	5
Permanent (Other)	4
Transitional (Bridge) Housing	12
Transitional (Substance Abuse)	2
Total Clients served (outreach number unduplicated)	251

It is important to note that client participation, other than outreach, requires the individual to have a permanent housing plan in place. For the purposes of this report, 47 persons transitioned or will be transitioning from the streets into permanent housing.

At the conclusion of the fiscal year, \$167,000 of the \$452,979 of year-one HEAP funds remained unspent. This was due to a reduction in outreach staff time, resulting from the Covid19 social distancing mandate. As these funds do not carry over, the City presented the Regional Task Force on the Homeless with a proposal to utilize the funds in a one-time expense to purchase the shower/bathroom and laundry facilities to be used at the new Bridge Homeless Shelter – bringing the City closer to the development of the first South Bay shelter.

For the second year HEAP funding, the City will continue to build on the successes of the first year of the program. Embedded within the outreach efforts are: (1) case managers/housing navigators from Alpha Project; (2) an existing dedicated Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) member in Chula Vista; (3) officers of the Chula Vista Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team and officers of the National City Police Department Homeless Outreach Team; and (4) a County of San Diego Health and Human Services Eligibility Worker.

In addition to its outreach activities, Alpha Project continues to provide case management services of unsheltered individuals and families in need of housing assistance and housing stabilization support services while they are successfully referred to, matched to, and/or enrolled in permanent housing programs.

To address interim housing needs while participants are transitioning from homelessness to shelter and/or permanent housing, National City will receive approximately \$25,000 to provide bridge interim housing placement with hotel/motel vouchers. The Chula Vista Housing Authority has committed in-kind contributions for unsheltered Chula Vista residents, providing one-time assistance to fund security deposits, short-term rental assistance for bridge or temporary housing stays using hotel/motel vouchers and/or ongoing rental assistance for permanent housing.

While the HEAP Grant award amount is \$452,979, the total program budget is \$1,487,979. This amount is inclusive of the cities’ contribution of \$765,000 from Chula Vista and \$270,000 from National City respectively, and is itemized below:

Budget Line Item	HEAP Funding	Chula Vista (Alternate) Funding	National City (Alternate) Funding	Line Item Total
Alpha Project – Direct Costs	\$64,571	\$0	\$0	\$64,571
Alpha Project – Indirect Costs	\$340,328	\$0	\$0	\$340,328
National City Police Department HOT Staff Time	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000
Chula Vista Police Department HOT Staff Time	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
Chula Vista Housing Division Staff Time	\$22,649	\$25,000	\$0	\$47,649
Hotel/Motel Voucher Program	\$25,431	\$50,000	\$0	\$75,431
Tenant-based Rental Assistance Program	\$0	\$400,000	\$150,000	\$550,000
Total (by Funding Source)	\$452,979	\$725,000	\$270,000	\$1,447,979

Through this action, staff is seeking Council’s approval to accept the \$452,979 in year-two HEAP funds awarded by the RTFH, authorization for the City Manager to execute documents to obtain the grant, approval of a HEAP Funding Agreement with the RTFH, a 3-Party Agreement between the City, Alpha Project and National City, and appropriation of funds, all of which are necessary to implement and administer the program.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the real property holdings of the City Council members do not create a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov’t Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund as a result of this action. The activities to be undertaken are funded through the HEAP Grant and are fully reimbursable from the Regional Task Force on the Homeless.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

There is no ongoing fiscal impact to the City's General Fund, because all costs associated with the administration of the associated HEAP Grant Agreement and funded activities is covered by the grant.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Agreement with the Regional Task Force on the Homeless and the City of Chula Vista
2. Agreement with City of Chula Vista, City of National City and Alpha Project

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