



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



September 24, 2019

File ID: 19-0422

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 funding application to the Regional Task Force on the Homeless. In May 2019, the City received notification that the program was awarded \$452,979 to implement the Chula Vista-National City Regional Homeless Program. In order to proceed with the program, the City must enter into agreements with the task force, the City of National City and Alpha Project. 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 the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (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.

In accordance with HEAP regulations, this funding must be allocated through each community's Continuum of Care (CoC), a federal program that promotes community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness. Locally, the CoC program is administered by the San Diego Regional Taskforce on the Homeless (RTFH).

On January 31, 2019, the RTFH released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for an estimated \$18.8 million, to be allocated over a two-year period, to solicit proposals for HEAP funds from eligible organizations, with a March 18, 2019 deadline. As established within the NOFA, priorities and criteria for funding included:

- Promoting cross jurisdictional or regional collaboration and cross-sector partnerships;
- Immediate impact and readiness of proposed activities to address issues homelessness with 50% of the award expended by December 2019; and,
- Experience and capacity of an organization in implementing proposed activities and past performance on relevant HUD or similar system performance.

HEAP Application

Due to the highly competitive HEAP grant application process, the City established a partnership with existing programs with proven experience utilizing and performing under State and Federal grant programs. The City also developed a collaborative multidisciplinary community partnership for the South Bay region, comprised of the cities of Chula Vista and National City. This partnership will work toward alleviating the effects of homelessness and addressing the short-term needs of those experiencing homelessness to foster long-term housing stability.

Chula Vista and National City, with its collaborative partners, proposed HEAP funding to replicate current best practices of each city, for implementation within both, to provide a consistent, results-based and multidisciplinary approach to serving the homeless. Chula Vista, as the lead applicant, with National City, Alpha Project and the McAllister Institute applied for \$2,052,346 of HEAP funds over a two-year period to fund:

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

Outreach efforts will seek to engage unsheltered individuals and families who may be disconnected and estranged from mainstream services. Such efforts help to establish supportive relationships and enhance the possibility that participants will access necessary services and support that will help them move off the streets. Embedded within the outreach efforts will be: (1) case managers/housing navigators from Alpha Project already under contract in National City; (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 a newly formed National City Police Department Homeless Outreach Team; and, (4) a new passenger van for the transportation needs of clients.

In addition to its outreach activities, Alpha Project also will 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.

The application also included continued funding for a job training component operated by the McAlister Institute in Chula Vista and to be expanded into National City. This element was aimed at restoring dignity, health and ultimately permanent employment and housing stability for participants by offering work experience, earning wages towards self-sufficiency, and receiving case management support and referral services.

To address interim housing needs while participants are transitioning from homelessness to shelter and/or permanent housing, funding was requested for National City to provide bridge interim housing placement with hotel/motel vouchers. The Chula Vista Housing Authority committed in-kind contributions for those unsheltered Chula Vista residents for one-time assistance to fund security deposits and/or short-term rental assistance for bridge or temporary housing stays hotel/motel vouchers rental subsidies. In addition, Chula Vista leveraged non-HEAP funds for ongoing rental assistance for permanent housing.

Access to reliable and flexible transportation is necessary to assist case managers/housing navigators to provide linkages to services, diversion and intervention, and connections with housing navigation resources aimed at ending homelessness. A request was made for the purchase of a passenger van.

HEAP Award

The RTFH received 51 applications from 41 agencies requesting \$63 million dollars for \$18.8 million in available funds. With limited funding and application requests far exceeding funds available, the RTFH notified the City on May 31, 2019 of its award of \$452,979 in HEAP funds for its first year — nearly \$1,005,200 less than requested.

Following notification of the HEAP award, the RTFH provided its detailed funding recommendations. In reviewing and awarding HEAP funds, the following program components were not supported by the RTFH:

- City or County personnel, such as a police department’s HOT, because HEAP funds are one-time only funds
- Vehicle costs
- Employment programs.

Consistent with the RTFH’s recommendations for funding and required adjustments to specific program components of the City’s collaborative HEAP application, staff has revised the scope, budget and performance metrics of the application.

ORIGINAL APPLICATION	REVISIONS TO APPLICATION
I. Coordinated Street Outreach	
2 (new) CVPD HOT Members	Removed from application
2 (new) NCPD HOT Members	Removed from application (to be funded by NC General Fund)
1 Alpha Project Supervisor	Removed from application
2 Alpha Project case managers/housing navigators	Increased to 4 case managers/housing navigators

ORIGINAL APPLICATION	REVISIONS TO APPLICATION
New van purchased with HEAP funds	Removed from application To be funded by Chula Vista Housing Funds
Operation Costs	No change
II. "Work for Hope" Employment Enterprise	
One supervisor Case Managers Stipend funds Operation costs	Removed entire job training component from application.
III. Housing First - Bridge Interim Housing Placement	
\$10,000 for NC hotel/motel vouchers	Increased to \$25,000 for hotel/motel vouchers

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
Transportation Van	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
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	\$765,000	\$270,000	\$1,487,979

Through this action, staff is seeking Council's approval to accept the \$452,979 in 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. The appropriation request includes appropriation of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) from the Housing Fund Balance to reimburse the Alpha Project for the costs associated with the purchase of the transportation van. This was categorized as an ineligible HEAP expense but is necessary to connect the unsheltered with services and housing navigation resources aimed at ending homelessness.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Not site specific. 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 funded through the HEAP are fully reimbursable from the Regional Task Force on the Homeless. In the same manner, the Forty Thousand Dollar (\$40,000) appropriation will be funded through the Housing Fund Balance, resulting in no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

There is no ongoing fiscal impact to the City's General Fund, because all costs associated with the administration of the HEAP 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
3. Program Scope of Work and Budget

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