



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HOUSING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET

MEETING DATE: June 11, 2021

HCR21-064

SUBJECT: Contract Renewal and Expansion of the Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): Citywide

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Homeless Housing Innovations Division

CONTACT/PHONE NUMBER: Lisa Jones (619) 578-7696

REQUESTED ACTION:

Authorize the award of \$187,553 in San Diego Housing Commission (Housing Commission) local funds and \$250,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the ongoing operations and expansion of the Housing Commissions Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER) for one year, and authorize the execution of the second option to renew the contract with the San Diego Community College District in the amount of \$437,553 to operate the expanded Homelessness PEER Program from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, with no options for renewal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF KEY FACTORS:

- The PEER Program is an educational program focused on creating a cohort of professionals to meet the immediate and long-term workforce needs for the City of San Diego's homelessness programs and services.
- The Program's objective is to provide a pipeline for students into employment opportunities in homelessness services via specialized education, training and job placement assistance.
- The Program launched in a live video format at the San Diego City College (City College) campus the week of October 13, 2020, with a goal of enrolling at least 15 students per semester.
- For the Fall 2020 course, 42 students enrolled, and for the Spring 2021 course, 43 students enrolled.
- Due to the demand for the PEER Program, significant student interest, and the continued need to focus on building the skilled workforce to support the City's efforts to address homelessness, Mayor Todd Gloria announced the intent to help expand the program, allocating \$250,000 in ARPA funding the City of San Diego received to expand the Program.
- The expansion includes offering the course two times each semester, increasing outreach to people interested in the course, increasing engagement with homelessness service providers needing to fill vacant positions, and increasing career counseling for people interested in working with people experiencing homelessness.
- The expanded PEER Program will be implemented effective July 1, 2021.
- Approving this action will authorize the Housing Commission to expend \$437,553 in Fiscal Year 2022 in a manner consistent with the City of San Diego's Community Action Plan on Homelessness. These funds will be included in the Housing Commission's Fiscal Year 2022 proposed budget, which will be presented to the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego on June 14, 2021, for consideration.



REPORT

DATE ISSUED: June 3, 2021

REPORT NO: HCR21-064

ATTENTION: Chair and Members of the San Diego Housing Commission
For the Agenda of June 11, 2021

SUBJECT: Contract Renewal and Expansion of the Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

REQUESTED ACTION:

Authorize the award of \$187,553 in San Diego Housing Commission local funds and \$250,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the ongoing operations and expansion of the Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER) for one year, and authorize the execution of the second option to renew the contract with the San Diego Community College District in the amount of \$437,553 to operate the expanded Homelessness PEER program from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, with no options for renewal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the San Diego Housing Commission (Housing Commission) Board of Commissioners (Board) take the following actions:

- 1) Authorize the Housing Commission to exercise the second option to renew a one-year contract with the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) in the amount of \$437,553 to operate the Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER) Program for the term of July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, funded by Housing Commission local funds and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, contingent on funding being allocated for this purpose in the City of San Diego's Fiscal Year 2022 budgeting process;
- 2) Authorize the President & CEO, or designee, to execute all documents and instruments that are necessary and/or appropriate to implement these approvals, on terms and conditions approved by the President & CEO, or designee, upon the advice of and in a form approved by General Counsel, and to take such actions necessary and/or appropriate to implement these approvals in accordance and compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations; and
- 3) Authorize the President & CEO, or designee, to increase the amount of funding for the operator agreement by no more than 20 percent of the approved budget and to substitute funding sources for the proposed agreement, if necessary, without further action by the Housing Commission Board, but only if and to the extent that funds are determined to be available for such purposes. The execution of the expansion component of the contract (the additional \$250,000 in ARPA funds) will be contingent on the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Housing Commission and the City of San Diego for

Administration of ARPA funds as deemed appropriate by the City of San Diego and approved through the City of San Diego's Fiscal Year 2022 budget process.

SUMMARY

As part of the Housing Commission's comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness, the Housing Commission and San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) collaborated to design the Homelessness PEER Program, an educational program focused on creating a cohort of professionals to meet the immediate and long-term workforce needs for the City of San Diego's homelessness programs and services. Utilizing best practices, the Homelessness PEER Program's objective is to provide a pipeline for students into employment opportunities in homelessness services via specialized education, training and job placement assistance. The Homelessness PEER Program launched in a live video format at the San Diego City College (City College) campus the week of October 13, 2020.

The Homelessness PEER Program aligns with the strategies contained in the City of San Diego Community Action Plan on Homelessness, with a focus on creating a client-centered homeless assistance system; implementing a systems-level approach to homelessness planning; and improving the performance of the existing system. The course builds on established SDCCD certificate programs in mental health, alcohol and other drug studies, gerontology, and the Associate of Arts Degree in Behavioral Health: Social Work. The newly created course; Human Services-75 is in the SDCCD School of Social Work. The Homelessness PEER Program also offers assistance to students with enrollment and support services needed on campus; matches students to opportunities such as internships, work experience, or service learning sites with homelessness service providers; and provides job placement assistance.

The Human Services-75 course provides an introduction to the policies, governance and operations of the homelessness services sector, with a specific focus on the San Diego region. Course topics include:

- Introduction to the San Diego County Continuum of Care, Regional Task Force on the Homeless
- Overview of the City of San Diego Community Action Plan on Homelessness
- Introduction to evidence-based practices, including Housing First principles, Cultural Competency, and Crisis Intervention
- Overview of housing interventions and resources
- Career opportunities and internships
- Understanding how the housing crisis came to be/Impact of the housing crisis on the person/household experiencing homelessness
- Overview of federal and state responses addressing homelessness
- Who is homeless in San Diego?/Introduction to special populations
- How do we respond to homelessness?
- What it is like to work in homelessness services?

At program implementation, the goal of the Human Services-75 course was to enroll at least 15 students per semester. At the close of the first year of programming, the Homelessness PEER Program achieved the following outcomes:

- 42 students enrolled in the Fall 2020 course;
- 43 students enrolled in the Spring 2021 course;

- 37 students in the two cohorts drafted an education plan with the assistance of an academic counselor;
- 45 students met with a career coach and received assistance with resume building, interviewing skills, internship and job searches, and overall guidance with securing employment positions in the homeless services industry;
- 10 students reported attending job interviews, resulting in three job placements with seven candidates still undergoing the Human Resources process;
- SDCCD reached out to 1,067 individuals about the Homelessness PEER Program and job resources available via the program's virtual job fairs, which offer an opportunity to interview with a minimum of two organizations per job fair; and
- Approximately 1,401 students received a live presentation or correspondence from Homelessness PEER Program staff.

Notably, as other regions and communities are learning about the Homelessness PEER Program, they have expressed interest in learning more about the program and developing similar academic programs.

Due to the demand for the Homelessness PEER Program, significant student interest, and the continued need to focus on building the skilled workforce to support the City's efforts to address homelessness, Mayor Todd Gloria announced the intent to allocate \$250,000 in ARPA funding the City of San Diego received to expand the Homelessness PEER Program. ARPA, signed into law by President Biden in March 2021, supports the economic recovery of states and local governments from the financial devastation created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARPA funding Mayor Gloria allocated provides the monetary support needed to offer an additional Human Services-75 course each semester, enroll more students, and increase critical career placement activities to continue to increase and strengthen the workforce focused on homelessness programming and services. The Homelessness PEER Program scope will be expanded to include the following:

- Offer the Human Services-75 course twice each semester.
- Increase outreach to community and other colleges for people interested in taking the Human Services-75 course and preparing to seek jobs working with agencies and organizations serving individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Increase engagement with the homelessness service provider network needing to fill vacant positions.
- Academic counseling and career plans for students interested in community positions with course preparation in Human Services, Alcohol and Other Drug Services, Gerontology, Behavioral Sciences, and Mental Health Work.
- Increase Career Counseling geared toward working with populations experiencing homelessness.
- Job readiness skills, resumes, interviewing and preparation for employment.
- Job development and placement of students into jobs.

Anticipated outcomes for the expanded Homelessness PEER Program are:

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	MEASURE	TARGET
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Provide topics for students interested in working with homeless populations including: Preventing burnout, crisis intervention, motivational interviewing, Housing First model, trauma-informed care, compassion fatigue, cultural sensitivity, etc.	Offer 2-unit course at San Diego Community College District (San Diego City College) twice each semester	By no later than Fall 2022, offer specialized class training students twice each semester to work with populations experiencing homelessness.
Provide a pipeline for students into Housing Commission-supported jobs in San Diego via specialized education and training.	Number of students enrolled in specialized training course	At least 60 students per semester
Conduct individual academic counseling and education plans for program participants in the three Certificates (Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, Gerontology) and Social Work major, with emphasis on working with populations experiencing homelessness.	Number of program participants seen by academic counselor	a) At least 16-20 unduplicated program participants counseled per week b) At least 20-40 counseling session or student engagement per week c) At least 50 percent of program participants in class cohort will have an education plan.
Provide program participants with career coaching, including resume building, interviewing skills, and overall career direction	Number of program participants engaged by Career Coach	At least 10-20 unduplicated program participants receive career related coaching per week.
Assist with matching students to appropriate internship, work experience, service learning sites with unsheltered populations	Student reports of securing volunteering, internship, or work sites in organizations working with homeless populations	At least 10-20 program participants per semester will have secured a volunteer, internship or job in an organization working with populations experiencing homelessness
Establish and maintain partnerships between SDCCD, the Housing Commission, and community-based organizations serving homeless populations for mutual educational, job training, and job opportunities	Hold an annual job and internship fair for students and candidates to interact directly with agencies seeking those trained to work with unsheltered populations and those with unstable housing	Maintain a minimum of five partnerships and form partnerships with at least two new agencies and organizations.
Provide outreach to the general public for student recruitment, partner relationships, and public relations.	Number of speaking engagements, one-on-one meetings, organizational meetings	Reach out to at least 400 individuals per semester.

Provide public with professional development and educational opportunities, discussing issues unique to populations experiencing homelessness.	Hold annual conference featuring experts from SDCCD faculty, Housing Commission staff, and partner organizations	Educate at least 200 individuals annually.
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The expanded Homelessness PEER Program will be implemented effective July 1, 2021.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS

Approving this action will authorize the Housing Commission to expend \$437,553 in Fiscal Year 2022 in a manner consistent with the City of San Diego Community Action Plan on Homelessness. These funds will be included in the Housing Commission's Fiscal Year 2022 proposed budget, which will be presented to the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego on June 14, 2021, for consideration.

Housing Commission Local Funds	ARPA	Total
\$187,553	\$250,000	\$437,553

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/CONTRACTING

SDCCD is an educational institution. As an educational institution, SDCCD is exempt from the requirement to submit a Workforce Report.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS and PROJECTED IMPACTS

Stakeholders for this project include the SDCCD, its students interested in pursuing a career in homelessness programs and services, the homelessness programs and services providers, and people experiencing homelessness in San Diego County.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The activities described in the report are not a project as defined in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15378(b)(5) as they are administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and, therefore, are not subject to CEQA pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines. Nevertheless, they would be categorically exempt under multiple separate provisions of CEQA, including Section 15322 for educational or training programs involving no physical changes, in addition to Section 15061 (b)(3) (Common Sense) which states that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. The Common Sense Exemption is applicable where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is not appealable and a Notice of Right to Appeal the Environmental Determination (NORA) is not required. The parties agree that the provision of any federal funds as the result of this action is conditioned on the City of San Diego's final NEPA review and approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

June 3, 2021

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Lisa Jones
Executive Vice President, Strategic Initiatives
San Diego Housing Commission



Jeff Davis
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
San Diego Housing Commission

Docket materials are available in the “Governance & Legislative Affairs” section of the San Diego Housing Commission website at www.sdhc.org