



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HOUSING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET

MEETING DATE: June 12, 2020

HCR20-060

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2021 Downtown San Diego Partnership Family Reunification Program
Contract Renewal

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): Citywide

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Homeless Housing Innovations

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

REQUESTED ACTION:

Approve the execution of the third renewal option of the Agreement with Downtown San Diego Partnership in the amount of \$894,000, funded with City of San Diego Affordable Housing funds (AHF), which the San Diego Housing Commission administers, in the amount of \$394,000 and Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the term of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021..

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF KEY FACTORS:

- A key component of the Homelessness Prevention and Shelter Diversion program of the San Diego Housing Commission's (Housing Commission) homelessness action plan, HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, is the Housing Commission's collaboration with the Downtown San Diego Partnership (Downtown Partnership) for the Family Reunification Program.
- The Family Reunification Program collaborates with local service agencies in the City of San Diego and the San Diego Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team to reconnect individuals and families living on the streets or in emergency shelters with family or other support systems through relocation assistance and follow-up services.
- The program expanded in Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020 to include six additional neighborhoods: Bankers Hill, Balboa Park, Hillcrest, Barrio Logan, Golden Hill, and Sherman Heights. In Fiscal Year 2020, the program expanded further through a contract amendment to include additional communities within Downtown San Diego, the Midway district, and Ocean Beach.
- The budgeted amount of \$894,000 to fund Fiscal Year 2021 operations will allow the program to maintain services within the Downtown area of San Diego and the expanded geographical areas of the City.
- The Program will be able to serve approximately 1,000 individuals in Fiscal Year 2021.
- Approving this action will authorize the Housing Commission to expend \$500,000 in Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding and \$394,000 in City of San Diego Affordable Housing funds (AHF), which the Housing Commission administers.



REPORT

DATE ISSUED: June 4, 2020

REPORT NO: HCR20-060

ATTENTION: Chair and Members of the San Diego Housing Commission
For the Agenda of June 12, 2020

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2021 Downtown San Diego Partnership Family Reunification
Program Contract Renewal

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

REQUESTED ACTION:

Approve the execution of the third renewal option of the Agreement with Downtown San Diego Partnership in the amount of \$894,000, funded with City of San Diego Affordable Housing funds (AHF), which the San Diego Housing Commission administers, in the amount of \$394,000 and Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the term of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

- 1) Authorize the execution of the third renewal option of the Agreement with Downtown San Diego Partnership for the operating period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, to provide homelessness prevention and shelter diversion services to persons experiencing homelessness in the City of San Diego, on terms and conditions as set forth in the Agreement, as it may be amended upon advise of the Housing Commission's General Counsel, consisting of the following funding sources for the third of four one-year renewal terms: City of San Diego Affordable Housing funds (AHF), which the Housing Commission administers, in the amount of \$394,000 and Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds in the amount of \$500,000, for a total of \$894,000 for the Fiscal Year 2021 operational budget;
- 2) Authorize the Housing Commission's President & Chief Executive Officer (President & CEO), or designee, to execute all necessary documents and instruments that are necessary and/or appropriate to implement these approvals, in a form and format approved by General Counsel, and to take such actions necessary and/or appropriate to implement these approvals; and
- 3) Authorize the Housing Commission's President & CEO, or designee, to substitute funding sources and/or increase compensation by not more than 20 percent of the total agreement amount for the proposed agreement, if necessary, without further action by the Board of Commissioners (Board) of the Housing Commission, but only if and to the extent that funds are determined to be available for such purposes.

SUMMARY

On July 1, 2017, the Housing Commission launched the current phase of its landmark homelessness action plan, HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO. One of the programs in this phase of HOUSING FIRST-

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SAN DIEGO is Homelessness Prevention and Shelter Diversion. For many families and individuals, homelessness can be avoided with the right support. Assistance provided through prevention will help households maintain their current housing situation, while diversion will aid households in staying out of the shelter system by identifying alternative permanent housing options with the necessary supports.

A key component of HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO’s Homelessness Prevention and Shelter Diversion program is the Housing Commission’s collaboration with the Downtown San Diego Partnership (Downtown Partnership) for the Family Reunification Program (the Program). Established in 2011 by the Downtown Partnership, the Program collaborates with local service agencies in the City of San Diego (City) and the San Diego Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team to reconnect individuals and families living on the streets or in emergency shelters with family or other support systems through relocation assistance and follow-up services. The Program targets individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the City’s downtown area and provides one-way, one-time transportation assistance services to reunify those individuals and families with family or other support systems in a different part of the continental United States.

The Program expanded in Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020 to include six additional neighborhoods: Bankers Hill, Balboa Park, Hillcrest, Barrio Logan, Golden Hill, and Sherman Heights. In Fiscal Year 2020, the program expanded further through a contract amendment to include additional communities within Downtown San Diego, the Midway district, and Ocean Beach.

The budgeted amount of \$894,000 to fund Fiscal Year 2021 operations will allow the Program to maintain services within the original Downtown area of San Diego as well as the expanded geographical areas of the City. The Program will be able to maintain current staffing levels, including six outreach workers, to support the expanded geographical reach of the Program, as well as serve approximately 1,000 individuals in Fiscal Year 2021.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPACT

As San Diegans continue to live in a City-declared housing emergency “shelter crisis,” the need for immediate housing assistance is critical to the well-being of community members. The Family Reunification Program serves this purpose by providing relocation and follow-up services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Individuals participating in this program represent some of San Diego’s most vulnerable citizens, as 100 percent of participants are homeless, with low-to-moderate incomes.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed funding approved by this action is included in the Housing Commission’s proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which will be presented to the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego on June 8, 2020. Approving this action will authorize the Housing Commission to expend \$500,000 in HEAP funding and \$394,000 in City of San Diego Affordable Housing funds (AHF), which the Housing Commission administers.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/CONTRACTING

Downtown San Diego Partnership is a local, member-based non-profit. The Equal Opportunity Contracting forms were submitted at the execution of the original agreement. As a non-profit, Downtown San Diego Partnership is exempt from the requirement to submit a Workforce Report.

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PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

On May 3, 2019, the Housing Commission Board of Commissioners authorized the execution of a contract amendment for the Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean and Safe Family Reunification Program, awarding an additional \$450,000 in HEAP funding to expand housing relocation and supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness. An amount of \$90,000 was allocated for the contract term of July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, and \$360,000 for the contract term of July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. The additional funding allocation enabled the expansion of the program into six additional neighborhoods outside of the City’s Downtown neighborhood: Bankers Hill, Balboa Park, Hillcrest, Barrio Logan, Golden Hill, and Sherman Heights.

On January 12, 2018, the Housing Commission Board of Commissioners authorized the execution of a contract amendment for the Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean and Safe Family Reunification Program, awarding an additional \$250,000 for housing relocation and supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness during the term of the initial operating agreement of June 1, 2017, to May 31, 2018. The Housing Commission further approved a one-month extension of the initial operating agreement through June 30, 2018. The amended contract value was approved as \$394,000 for the contract term of June 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, with an annual contract amount of \$394,000 for any option years exercised.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS and PROJECTED IMPACTS

Stakeholders for this project include: the Downtown San Diego Partnership Family Reunification Program clients and Downtown San Diego Partnership as the sub-recipient administering the Program. The Program is expected to have a positive impact on the community because it will provide relocation and follow-up services to 1,000 otherwise homeless individuals.

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 15301 for existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of the existing use. The activity contemplated herein, does not include the use of federal funds and is categorically excluded from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA.)

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,



Lisa Jones
Senior Vice President
Homeless Housing Innovations
San Diego Housing Commission

Jeff Davis
Executive Vice President & Chief of Staff
San Diego Housing Commission

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