



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HOUSING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET

MEETING DATE: May 5, 2022

HCR22-060

SUBJECT: Approval of the Contract between the San Diego Housing Commission and San Diego Community College District to Operate 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 San Diego Housing Commission to enter into an agreement with the San Diego Community College District, using a non-competitive sole source process, in the amount of \$250,000 in City General Funds and \$187,553 in Housing Commission local funds for a total of \$437,553 to operate the expanded Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER) for an initial one-year term from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, with two one-year options for renewal, contingent on the availability of funding for this purpose.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF KEY FACTORS:

- As part of the Housing Commission's comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness, the Housing Commission and SDCCD collaborated to design Homelessness PEER, 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.
- Homelessness PEER launched in a live video format at San Diego City College (City College) the week of October 13, 2020.
- Contingent on budget approval, City of San Diego funding will continue to support two additional Human Services-75 (HUMS-75) courses per school year, enroll more students, and increase critical career placement activities to continue to increase and strengthen the workforce focused on homelessness programming and services.
- The HUMS-75 course offered under Homelessness PEER provides an academic pathway to employment opportunities focused on working with persons experiencing homelessness.
- As other regions and communities learn about Homelessness PEER, they have expressed interest in learning more about the program and developing similar academic programs.
- In addition, in March 2021, Homelessness PEER was featured in a 28-minute video presented to the League for Innovation in the Community College's national "Innovations 2021" virtual conference. San Diego City College produced the video about the program.
- In October 2021, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) recognized Homelessness PEER with a national Award of Merit in the area of administrative innovation. In November 2021, the public broadcasting program "Inside California Education" also featured Homelessness PEER. "Inside California Education" was distributed to multiple Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations throughout the state.



REPORT

DATE ISSUED: April 28, 2022

REPORT NO: HCR22-060

ATTENTION: Chair and Members of the San Diego Housing Commission
For the Agenda of May 5, 2022

SUBJECT: Approval of the Contract between the San Diego Housing Commission and San Diego Community College District to Operate the Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

REQUESTED ACTION:

Authorize San Diego Housing Commission to enter into an agreement with the San Diego Community College District, using a non-competitive sole source process, in the amount of \$250,000 in City General Funds and \$187,553 in Housing Commission local funds for a total of \$437,553 to operate the expanded Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER) for an initial one-year term from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, with two one-year options for renewal, contingent on the availability of funding for this purpose.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

- 1) Authorize the Housing Commission to enter into an agreement with the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD), using a non-competitive sole source process pursuant to Housing Commission Statement of Procurement Policy Section 9.4.2, in the amount of \$250,000 in City General Funds and \$187,553 in Housing Commission local funds, for a total of \$437,553 to operate the Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (Homelessness PEER) for an initial term of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, with two one-year options for renewal, contingent on funding being made available for this purpose.
- 2) Authorize the Housing Commission's Interim President & Chief Executive Officer (President & CEO), or designee, to execute all 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, provided that a copy of the documents, signed as to form by General Counsel, are submitted to each Housing Commissioner in advance of approval for the designee to sign.
- 3) Authorize the 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 Housing Commission Board, but only if and to the extent that funds are determined to be available for such purposes.

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SUMMARY

As part of the Housing Commission's comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness, the Housing Commission and SDCCD collaborated to design Homelessness PEER, 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, Homelessness PEER's objective is to provide a pipeline for students into employment opportunities in homelessness services via specialized education, training and job placement assistance. Homelessness PEER launched in a live video format at San Diego City College (City College) the week of October 13, 2020.

Homelessness PEER aligns with and advances strategies contained in the Community Action Plan on Homelessness for the City of San Diego, 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.

Due to student interest and the continued need to focus on building the skilled workforce to support the City's efforts to address homelessness, the City of San Diego has allocated \$250,000 in General Funds to maintain its support of the expanded Homelessness PEER in the City's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget. Contingent on budget approval, the funding will continue to support two additional Human Services-75 (HUMS-75) courses per school year, enroll more students, and increase critical career placement activities to continue to increase and strengthen the workforce focused on homelessness programming and services.

The HUMS-75 course offered under Homelessness PEER provides an academic pathway to employment opportunities focused on working with persons experiencing homelessness. Utilizing established certificate programs in Mental Health Work, Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, Gerontology and the Associate of Arts Degree in Behavioral Health: Social Work, Homelessness PEER supports individual academic counseling and education plans for students who have expressed an interest in working with persons experiencing homelessness or related fields, as well as persons already working in these fields who want to develop a greater understanding of the policies and practices of the local homelessness sector. The program offers assistance to students with enrollment and securing support services needed on campus; matches students to appropriate internships, work experience, or service learning sites with homeless service providers; and provides job placement assistance.

Homelessness PEER offers:

- The HUMS-75 course four times per school year.
- Outreach to community and other colleges for students interested in taking the course and preparing to seek jobs working with organizations serving individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Engagement with the homelessness service provider network to identify vacant positions under recruitment.
- Academic counseling and career plans for Homelessness PEER students.
- Career/Educational Counseling geared toward:
 - Working with populations experiencing homelessness, and

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- Longer-term educational and career pathways in social services sectors that support people experiencing homelessness.
- Job readiness skills, resumes, interviewing and preparation for employment.
- Job development and placement of students into jobs.

Thus far in the FY 2022 time of performance, Homelessness PEER has achieved the following outcomes:

- 21 students enrolled in the Fall 2021 course;
- 42 students enrolled in Session 1 of the Spring 2022 course;
- 39 students enrolled in Session 2 of the Spring 2022 course;
- In the first six months of FY 2022:
 - 412 counseling session held;
 - 54 students received coaching, job-seeking assistance, and resume building services; and
 - Approximately 3,500 people received either a presentation, a digital outreach, and/or virtual communication to share information about the program, (either from an enrollment outreach or partnership with service sector agencies outreach);
- Four job fairs held to date in FY 2022, with one on scheduled for late April 2022; and
- At least *23 students self-reported hires by organizations addressing homelessness since program start (*not all students report back when they have been hired in the sector). (Of the 23 students that self-reported hires, more than 70 percent were persons of color).

Homelessness PEER partnering organizations currently include:

- Father Joe's Villages
- San Diego County
- Mental Health Systems
- PATH
- Jewish Family Service
- The (LGBT) Center
- Dreams for Change
- Belle Vista Health Center
- Community Resource Center
- Salvation Army
- Alpha Project
- Interfaith Community Services
- San Diego Rescue Mission
- Catholic Charities
- Community Housing Works
- Wesley House
- ElderHelp
- Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC)
- San Diego Youth Services
- Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO)
- Monarch School

- 211 San Diego
- House of Restoration Community Connections

Notably, as other regions and communities learn about Homelessness PEER, they have expressed interest in learning more about the program and developing similar academic programs. In June 2021, the Homelessness PEER Program Coordinator met with Dr. Patricia Ramos at Santa Monica College, along with representatives from the County of Los Angeles, JCS So Cal, and Housing Works California, to explore the possibility of designing and implementing a similar program at Santa Monica College. In February 2022, the Housing Commission’s Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and the Project Manager from the Homeless Housing Innovations Division who conceptualized and designed the program, joined the Homelessness PEER Program Coordinator to meet with staff from the Housing Authority of Santa Barbara, as well as representatives from Santa Barbara Community College and various nonprofits, to explore the possibility of replicating Homelessness PEER in Santa Barbara. In addition, in March 2021, Homelessness PEER was featured in a 28-minute video presented to the League for Innovation in the Community College’s national “Innovations 2021” virtual conference. San Diego City College produced the video about the program. In October 2021, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) recognized Homelessness PEER with a national Award of Merit in the area of administrative innovation. In November 2021, the public broadcasting program “Inside California Education” also featured Homelessness PEER. “Inside California Education” was distributed to multiple Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations throughout the state.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS

Approving this action will authorize the Housing Commission to expend \$250,000 in City General Funds and \$187,553 in Housing Commission local funds, for a total of \$437,553 in FY 2023, contingent on FY 2023 budget approvals. These funds will be included in the Housing Commission’s FY 2023 proposed budget, which will be presented to the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego in June 2022 for consideration. Funding for future option years is contingent on the City and Housing Commission allocating funding for this purpose during the annual budgeting process.

Funding Source	Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024*	Fiscal Year 2025*
City General Fund	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Housing Commission Local Funds	\$187,553	\$187,553	\$187,553
TOTAL:	\$437,553	\$437,553	\$437,553

*Contingent on funding being made available for this purpose.

HOUSING COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN

This item relates to Strategic Priority Area No. 4 in the Housing Commission’s Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022- 2024: Advancing Homelessness Solutions – Supporting the City of San Diego Community Action Plan on Homelessness.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING AND EQUITY ASSURANCE

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

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PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTIONS

On June 11, 2021, the Housing Commission Board of Commissioners approved the utilization of a sole-source procurement process to enter into a contract with San Diego City College to continue the operation of Homelessness PEER for one year and authorized the execution of the second option to renew the contract with SDCCD to operate an expanded Homelessness PEER from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, with no options to renew (Report No. HCR21-064).

KEY STAKEHOLDERS and PROJECTED IMPACTS

Stakeholders for this project include the SDCCD, its students interested in pursuing a career in homelessness programs and services, 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jones

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

Approved by,

Jeff Davis

Jeff Davis
Interim President & Chief Executive Officer
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.