



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Sara Bedford
Director, Human Services

SUBJECT: Homelessness Funding Report FY
2021-22

DATE: December 28, 2020

City Administrator Approval 

Date: January 29, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt The Following Pieces Of Legislation:

1. A Resolution:

- A. Authorizing The City Administrator To Amend Existing Grant Agreements And Professional Service Agreements With Homeless Intervention Service Providers To Extend The Term Through Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 And Increase The Amount Using Measure Q Funds Appropriated For Homeless Intervention Services In The 2021-23 Biennial Budget, Without Returning To Council; And**
- B. Authorizing The City Administrator To Award New Grant Agreements And Professional Service Agreements To Public And Private Entities Selected Through The Human Services Department's Request For Qualifications Process For The Provision Of Homeless Intervention Services In An Amount Not To Exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) Each In FY 2021-22 Using Measure Q Funds Appropriated For Homeless Intervention Services In The 2021-23 Biennial Budget, Without Returning To Council.**

2. A Resolution:

- A. Authorizing The City Administrator To Amend Existing Grant Agreements And Professional Service Agreements With Homeless Intervention Service Providers To Extend The Term Through June 30, 2022 And To Increase The Amount Using Any Combination Of Accepted And Appropriated Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), Homeless, Housing, Assistance And Prevention (HHAP) And COVID-19 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) Funds, Subject To Any Applicable Funding Regulations And Requirements; , Without Returning To Council;**
- B. Awarding A Grant Agreement And A Professional Service Agreement In Amounts Not To Exceed Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) And Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), Respectively, To Family Bridges For The Provision Of Homeless**

Intervention Services At Oak Street Community Cabins For FY 2021-22, Using Any Combination Of Accepted And Appropriated Heap, HHAP And ESG-CV Funds, Subject To Any Applicable Funding Regulations And Requirements; And

- C. Authorizing The City Administrator To Award New Grant Agreements And Professional Service Agreements For Homeless Intervention Services In An Amount Not To Exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) Each Through June 30, 2022, Using Any Combination Of Accepted And Appropriated HEAP, HHAP And ESG-CV Funds, Subject To Any Applicable Funding Regulations And Requirements, Without Returning To Council**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adoption of the first proposed resolution will allow the City Administrator to use Measure Q funds to amend existing agreements for homeless services and enter into new agreements for homeless services through June 30, 2022.

Adoption of the second proposed resolution will allow the City Administrator to amend existing agreements for homeless services and enter into new agreements for homeless services using a combination of Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program and COVID Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funds through fiscal year (FY) 2020-22.

This report seeks to inform the City Council how additional funding from state and federal sources will work together to support the City's homeless services system. The reallocation of funds and new funding sources allow staff to: 1) maximize the ability to fund all priority interventions for homeless residents, including COVID-19 response; 2) align the specific programs with allowable funding sources; 3) ensure one-time funds with varied ending dates can be fully spent down in a timely manner; 4) prioritize ongoing, long-term strategies aligned with the Permanent Access to Housing (PATH) framework with ongoing versus one-time funding; and, 5) strategically maximize every homeless funding dollar to support the full continuum of services.

This report also highlights the anticipated loss of a large amount (\$44 million) of homelessness funding at the end of FY 2021-22. Most of the sources of funding discussed in this report (HHAP, HHAP Round 2, ESG-CV, State COVID-19 funds) are one-time and are projected to be fully spent by the end of FY 2021-22, barring specific project implementation delays. Without additional funding identified, the loss of these funds puts the sustainability of the following intervention types at risk:

- Crisis response beds/spaces (shelter, cabins, RV safe parking, trailers) – serving up to 830 people at one time
- Homelessness prevention services for up to 400 households per year
- Hygiene (portable toilets, wash stations) at 40 encampments; showers at 18 encampments
- Employment programs
- Capacity building with a focus on racial equity

- Flexible housing subsidies for up to 400 people/year exiting crisis response programs

Lastly, this report details a proposed two-year spending plan to support homeless interventions using these new funds through FY 2021-22. It is urgent to receive authorization for FY 2021-22 early in the spring. There are several reasons for this urgency:

- Agencies operating interventions commencing mid-year with the new funding in FY 2020-21 (such as expanded street outreach) need assurances that they will be funded for longer than six months before they can invest in hiring and training staff, purchase equipment, and start full program operations.
- Existing programs and services serving vulnerable populations need timely and careful planning if they were to close. The process to close programs that provide crisis response beds/spaces (cabins, shelter, RV safe parking) would require between four to five months to ensure that all clients have a safe place to go.
- Most of the funding sources discussed in this legislation, report and two-year funding plan are time limited and have end dates over the next several years including in 2021 and 2022. The current two-year funding plan blends funding in a way that sustains current interventions for as long as possible while meeting all spending deadlines. Changes to any portion of how funds are allocated has a cascading impact on other funds and other interventions. In order to ensure that all funds are spent by their deadlines, planning needs to be finalized by early 2021.
- Programs which are continuing into FY 2021-22 need to begin the contracting process in spring 2021 in order to avoid any disruption in funding.
- Finalizing these program and funding decisions also provides a clear baseline of homeless services and service gaps for City Council to deliberate during their two-year budget process.

In general, the funding plan presented in this report meets the need of the policies in the City's Encampment Management Plan and PATH Framework. The re-engineering of the funding and services could have a detrimental impact on continuing to provide service to the most vulnerable members of Oakland's community. Staff urges swift adoption of this spending plan.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On December 4, 2019, staff presented the City's five-year PATH Framework to address homelessness to the Life Enrichment Committee. The PATH Framework provides priority areas for City investments in addressing homelessness.

On April 16, 2020, the City received an award of \$3,200,000 from the State of California to address the impacts of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness. These funds were accepted and allocated under the City's emergency proclamation, issued by the City Administrator on March 9, 2020 and adopted by the City Council on March 12, 2020 via Resolution No. 88075 C.M.S.

In April 2020, the City received an award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$ 2,275,917 in Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID

(ESG-CV) funds. In June 2020, the City received a second ESG-CV award from HUD in the amount of \$ 19,288,175. These funds are for the express purpose of preventing, preparing for, and addressing the impacts of COVID-19 within the homeless population.

In March 2020, the State of California Governor's Office issued additional guidance regarding the use of HHAP funds and indicated that recipients could change their planned use of HHAP funds in order to address the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 12, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 88109 C.M.S., authorizing the City Administrator to accept HHAP funds provided by the State of California and to use these funds to maintain several existing homeless interventions, as well as implement several new homeless programs. These funds are for the stated purpose of expanding local capacity to address the immediate challenge of homelessness. Eligible activities range from street-based interventions to supporting permanent housing solutions. The approved use of the HHAP funding was in alignment with several policy priorities in the PATH Framework.

On August 28, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 88284 C.M.S., authorizing the City Administrator to apply for funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development under the HomeKey program. On the same date, the City Council also adopted Emergency Ordinance No. 13614 C.M.S., authorizing the City to use HomeKey funds to purchase Clifton Hall, while using HHAP funds as a capitalized operating reserve for this property.

In August 2020, the State of California announced that a second round of HHAP funds would be released in the fall of 2020. Oakland's allocation of these funds is estimated to be \$9,000,000. The application process for these funds, and specific funding guidance, has not yet been released by the State.

In December 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 88451 C.M.S. and No. 88452 C.M.S. authorizing the City Administrator to amend existing agreements and enter into new agreements, using Measure Q and HHAP funds respectively, in FY 2020-21.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Taken together, these new funding sources present an unprecedented opportunity to:

- Ensure a robust COVID-19 response for Oakland's homeless residents;
- Preserve and extend existing resources- stretching funding through FY 2021-22 for some interventions that were previously facing a fiscal cliff at the end of FY 2020-21.
- Expand strategically – adding resources across the homeless intervention spectrum; and
- Create permanent, deeply affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness.

Each of the new funding sources has varying eligible activities and various spending deadlines. ESG-CV, for example, is very restricted in its eligible uses and timelines for expenditure; State resources are less restricted; and City resources are the least restricted. Additionally, most of

the new sources are one-time, and therefore cannot be used to support needs in the budget that require ongoing money (such as services for persons in permanent housing). To truly maximize every dollar of this funding requires strategically planning how each funding source is best used to leverage other existing and new funding sources. As a result, the previous budget recommendations made by staff in May 2020 cannot simply be supplemented with new resources as not all the funding sources are interchangeable.

With this in mind, this report recommends broader changes to the overall budget picture, including revisiting portions of the budget previously approved by the City Council in May 2020. Specifically, staff is recommending strategic adjustments to previously allocated funds (HHAP, Measure Q), which allows for more effective uses of newer funding sources (ESG-CV, HHAP Round 2). The recommendations remain aligned with existing spending plans and with the policy priorities recommended under the PATH Framework. These priorities include:

- Preserve existing capacity of homeless prevention, crisis response beds/spaces, and health and hygiene interventions.
- Improve efficiency of existing beds to be housing-focused – equipping shelter and transitional housing beds with additional exit resources (subsidies and services).
- Improve program evaluation, data analysis, and agency capacity building with a focus on racial equity.
- Increase capacity across all parts of the homeless response system, including the creation of deeply affordable permanent housing.

A summary chart of all funded interventions (**Attachment A**) and a detailed chart showing each funding source (**Attachment B**) are included with this report.

Measure Q (Fund 2244)

In March 2020, Oakland voters passed the Parks and Homeless Services Measure (Measure Q), approving a parcel tax to support parks and recreation, water quality, and homelessness services. These funds were allocated during the mid-cycle budget process through Resolution No. 88174 C.M.S., passed on June 23, 2020 and these allocations were amended through Resolution No. 88451, adopted December 15, 2020. This resolution allocated a total of \$5,867,388 for third party grants.

Since the mid-cycle budget was adopted, the City has received additional State and Federal funds to address homelessness. As a result, staff is proposing to strategically use Measure Q funds for interventions where an ongoing funding source is critical. Proposed uses for Measure Q funds include:

- Sustaining brick and mortar crisis beds – Henry and Holland transitional housing programs for singles (222 individuals), and Family Matters Shelter for homeless families (20 family units).
- Leveraging over \$3,000,000 in Oakland Housing Authority rental subsidies by matching these dollars with services funding. Measure Q supports the expansion of the Oakland Path Rehousing Initiative (OPRI) program to serve 100 adults, 25 transitional age youth and 40 family households.
- Increasing street outreach to support full implementation of the Encampment Management Policy while sustaining existing services;

- Permanent source of funding for motel vouchers to provide emergency relief in crisis situations.

Homeless Housing, Assistance And Prevention (HHAP) (Fund 2159)

The HHAP funds are a \$650 million one-time statewide block grant offered by the State of California to assist local governments in their response to the statewide homelessness crisis. On May 12, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 88109 C.M.S., which authorized the City Administrator to accept HHAP funds and authorized their use to maintain several existing homeless interventions and to implement several new homeless programs. These allocations were amended through Resolution No. 88452, adopted December 15, 2020. The approved use of the HHAP funding was in alignment with several policy priorities in the PATH Framework.

Since adopting the HHAP resolution, the City received additional State and Federal funding to address COVID-19, and applied for and received State HomeKey funding to expand the inventory of housing for people experiencing homelessness who are at high risk of serious illness or death if they contract COVID-19. These new funding sources and opportunities have led to some changes in the recommended use for HHAP funds.

Proposed changes to HHAP expenditures include:

- Reducing the amount of HHAP funding allocated to Community Cabins and emergency shelter programs and backfilling some of those costs with ESG-CV funding;
- Increasing funds allocated to safe RV parking sites;
- Funding eligible hygiene costs (portable toilets, wash stations) with ESG-CV funding instead of HHAP funding;
- Increasing funding for mobile showers;
- Funding homelessness prevention and exit strategies – move in assistance, short-term subsidies and support – with ESG-CV funding instead of HHAP funding.

Most significantly, moving some funding allocations from HHAP to ESG-CV both maintains or expands the interventions originally funded by HHAP *and* creates the ability to set aside \$7,000,000 in HHAP for a capitalized operating reserve for affordable housing. These funds are being used to support the creation of 42 units of deeply affordable permanent housing in Clifton Hall, a former California College of the Arts (CCA) dormitory being purchased by the City using State HomeKey funds. The units will be prioritized for homeless individuals coming out of Alameda County's COVID-19 response hotels or out of the City's HomeBase COVID-19 response trailer program. The flexibility of the HHAP funds for this use was a critical part of obtaining the HomeKey funds to purchase the building. This HHAP funded operating reserve will cover 13 years of operations, and once combined with the two years of operating subsidy from Homekey, will result in 15 years of dedicated operating subsidy for the permanent senior housing. The purchase of this building also provides a permanent physical space for Family Matters, the family shelter serving over 20 families, which is currently temporarily housed in Emeryville.

HHAP funding is also allocated to support the work of agency capacity building with a focus on racial equity. This work is described in more detail in the Race and Equity section below.

Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID (Fund 2103)

As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, HUD expanded its existing Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and provided additional funding to local governments under the ESG-CV program. ESG-CV funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance. The City of Oakland received an allocation of \$2,275,917 in the first round of ESG-CV, announced in April 2020, and received an allocation of \$19,288,175 in the second round of ESG-CV, announced in June 2020. This report informs the City Council how staff recommends using these funds in coordination with the other resources.

Although the eligible uses for ESG-CV are limited, taken together, the \$21,564,092 in ESG-CV will allow the City to extend existing homelessness dollars and interventions in the following significant ways:

- Interventions such as community cabins, emergency shelter beds, prevention, and hygiene, can be continued through FY 2021-22.
- Support an estimated 180 Oakland households to move from County and City COVID-19 response hotels and trailers into permanent housing. Approximately \$4.7 million over two years is recommended to support bridge housing rental subsidies for Oaklanders exiting from the County's COVID-19 response hotels and from the City's COVID-19 response trailers. Supportive services for these households will be provided by Alameda County.
- Most significantly, as mentioned above, moving some intervention costs from HHAP to ESG-CV will allow HHAP to be used as capitalized operating subsidies to create 42 units of deeply affordable permanent housing and a permanent family shelter facility. Federal ESG-CV funds cannot be capitalized for reserves in this fashion.

Homeless Housing, Assistance And Prevention (HHAP)- Round 2

The HHAP Round 2 funds are a \$300 million statewide grant that will provide support to local jurisdictions to continue building upon what has been developed through previous rounds of State funding (HEAP, HHAP) and to use for similar purposes. In late August, the State released the HHAP Round 2 allocation amounts for each jurisdiction in California. Oakland's estimated allocation is \$9,000,000. The State released the HHAP Round 2 notice of funding availability (NOFA) in late November and funding awards are expected in late spring 2021. In anticipation of receiving these additional funds, staff has taken them into consideration when looking strategically across the entire homelessness funding landscape.

Staff recommends that HHAP Round 2 funds be used as follows:

- Continue fully funding crisis response interventions such as cabins, RV Safe Parking and shelter through FY 2021-22;
- Continuing to fund employment training programs and services through FY 2021-22; and
- Continue to fund equity focused evaluation and capacity building through FY 2021-22.

Once the City applies for and is awarded these funds, staff will return to the City Council with final spending recommendations.

State COVID-19 Funds

In April 2020, the State of California allocated \$100 million to cities and counties throughout the state to address the immediate impacts of the pandemic on homelessness. Oakland's allocation of these funds was \$3,200,000. The funds had to be spent quickly, with an obligated (encumbered) deadline of June 30th, 2020. Under the COVID-19 emergency proclamation adopted by the City Council on March 12, 2020 the majority of this funding was spent on:

- Site set-up and first year of operations for the HomeBase COVID-19 response trailer site;
- Street outreach and outreach supplies to address COVID-19;
- Emergency motel vouchers; and
- Partial funding to sustain the HomeBase trailer intervention through FY 2021-22.

Policy Alternatives

The proposed uses for the funds outlined above maintain or expand many homeless interventions through FY 2021-22. Prior to the new ESG-CV and HHAP Round 2 funds, many interventions would have required additional funding by the end of FY 2020-21 in order to continue. The addition of these new funding sources allows existing interventions to continue through FY 2021-22. With over 3000 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Oakland each night, in the middle of a pandemic, maintaining the existing level of services, especially crisis response beds (shelter, community cabins, RV safe parking), is crucial. Even so, there are some significant alternative scenarios and tradeoffs that should be considered.

One alternative is to use a portion of the flexible HHAP Round 2 funds to create additional permanent housing operating subsidies. For example, there are affordable housing projects currently in the pipeline for a 2021 construction start date where most of the funding and land use approvals are complete, and the project has a significant number of units set aside for people experiencing homelessness. These projects have operating subsidy gaps between \$3,000,000 and \$8,000,000 and could serve between 20 to 50 homeless individuals, respectively. Some or all of the HHAP Round 2 funds could be used for the creation of deeply affordable permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness. Using the funding in this way, however, would mean the loss of current crisis response beds/spaces in FY 2021-22 such as cabins, RV safe parking and the St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) shelter. This would be inconsistent with the City Council's previous guidance on budget priorities under the PATH framework, which prioritizes the preservation of existing crisis response capacity.

Another alternative is for the funds discussed above to be more narrowly focused on a proportion of interventions that can be sustained beyond FY 2021-22. Using the funds in this way would require ending some interventions at the end of FY 2020-21 and using those funds to sustain other interventions through FY 2022-23. However, this would necessitate losing some existing crisis response beds in FY 2021-22 and as discussed above, maintaining the existing level of these services is both consistent with the adopted PATH policy priorities and especially crucial during a pandemic.

FISCAL IMPACT

The funds discussed in this report are or will be appropriated in the funding codes shown below and will be allocated to existing and new interventions described in this report.

NAME	Fund	Organization	Account	Project	Amount	One-Time vs Ongoing
<u>HHAP</u>	<u>2159</u>	78411	(Various)	1005248	\$19,697,548.19	One-Time
<u>State COVID</u>	<u>2159</u>	78411	(Various)	1005303	\$3,200,000	One-Time
<u>ESG-CV</u>	<u>2103</u>	78411	(Various)	1005315	\$21,564,092.00	One-Time
<u>HHAP 2 (proposed)</u>	<u>2159</u>	78411	(Various)	TBD	\$9,000,000	One-Time
<u>MEASURE Q</u>	<u>2244</u>	78411	(Various)	1000017	\$5,867,388	Ongoing

Most of the above sources of funding (HHAP, HHAP Round 2, ESG-CV, State COVID-19 funds) are one-time and are projected to be fully spent by the end of FY 2021-22, barring specific project implementation delays. Without additional funding identified, the loss of these funds puts the sustainability of the following intervention types at risk:

- Crisis response beds/spaces (shelter, cabins, RV safe parking, trailers) – serving up to 830 people at one time
- Homelessness prevention services for up to 400 households per year
- Hygiene (portable toilets, wash stations) at 40 encampments; showers at 18 encampments
- Employment programs
- Capacity building with a focus on racial equity
- Flexible housing subsidies for up to 400 people/year exiting crisis response programs.

Staff urges the City Council to work to find a more robust solution and on-gong revenue stream to deal with the growing crisis with the unhoused community. If not, staff is concerned about the severe reduction in services which will occur should these one-time funding opportunities cease.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

No outreach was deemed necessary for the proposed policy action beyond the standard City Council agenda noticing procedures.

COORDINATION

Coordination has occurred between the Human Services Department (HSD), Homelessness Administrator, City Attorney's Office, Mayor's Office and Budget Bureau in the preparation of this report and legislation.

PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The funding discussed in this report covers a wide range of homeless services programs. Some key outcomes from programs supported with this funding in FY 2019-20 are below.

Community Cabins

- 508 individuals were served by the Community Cabins including 280 who were chronically homeless¹.
- The majority of clients, 63 percent, identify as Black or African American; 22 percent identify as white and 6 percent identify as multiracial. Thirteen percent identify as Latinx.
- 72 percent of individuals self-reported a physical or mental health condition at the time of program entry.
 - 321 people exited the program during the fiscal year of whom 50 percent had a positive exit (28 percent went to permanent housing and 22 percent went to temporary destinations).

HomeBase

- 150 individuals at high risk from COVID-19 have been served since the program opened in May 2020.
- 77 percent of clients identify as Black or African American and 6 percent identify as Latinx.
- 90 percent of individuals moved-in directly from the streets; 10 percent moved-in as emergency shelters were being decompressed (moving clients out and decreasing the total census to create more space between beds).
 - A small number of clients (29) quickly determined that the program was not the right fit for them and chose to leave. Of these clients, 8 returned to emergency shelters and 14 returned to the streets. The remainder exited to housing, hospital, family or hotels.

RV Safe Parking

- 155 individuals were served in the RV Safe Parking sites including 96 (62 percent) who were chronically homeless.
- 77 percent of clients self-reported a physical or mental health condition at the time of program entry.

¹A homeless individual or head of household with a disability (that meets the HUD definition of a disability) who (a) lives in a place not meant for human habitation, or in an emergency shelter; AND (b) has been homeless and living in one of these places continuously for at least 12 months OR on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years.

- 30 percent of participants identified as Black or African American and 58 percent identified as white.
- 21 people (13.5 percent) left the program during the fiscal year with 10 percent of exits going to permanent housing.

Mobile Showers

- 369 shower sessions at 10 sites around the City.
- 4,829 individual showers provided.

Hygiene

- Increased the number of encampment sites receiving hygiene interventions to 40 sites at any one time.
- Maintained eight (8) program sites including Community Cabins and RV/Safe Parking sites.

St. Vincent de Paul Shelter

- Provided 28,232 bed nights of emergency shelter.
- 18 people exited to permanent housing.
- 52 people exited to a more service enriched transitional housing program (cabins, trailers).

Oakland Path Rehousing Initiative (OPRI)

- 142 clients were assisted (125 Adults & Transitional Age Youth (ages 18-24) / 17 children under 18.
- This included people from encampments (43), people from encampments with serious mental illness (21), Transitional Age Youth (25), people at-risk of being perpetrators or victims of violence and homeless or at-risk of homelessness (36).
- The majority of clients served, 78 percent, identify as Black or African American; 8 percent identify as White; 9 percent identify as Hispanic/Latinx; and 8 percent identify as multiracial.
 - 95 percent of all clients who had been in housing for more than six months as of June 30, 2019, remained in housing for at least six months.
 - 93 percent of those placed at least one year before the end date, maintained housing for more than 12 months.
 - 85 percent of those placed more than 36 months before the contract end date, maintained housing.

Brown Bag food program

- Distributed 3500 meal bags per month across 15 food pantry sites

Henry Robinson/Holland Transitional Housing Programs for single adults

- 328 individuals obtained transitional housing through the Henry and Holland programs, including 234 individuals who were chronically homeless.
- The majority of clients (248 individuals or 75.6 percent) served identify as Black or African American; 16 (4.8 percent) identify as multiple races. Thirty-three (10 percent) identify as Latinx.

- 296 participants (90 percent) came into the program with one or more health conditions, including 208 (70 percent) with a mental health problem, 186 (63.4 percent) with a physical disability, and 146 (44.5 percent) with a chronic health condition.
 - 189 participants (88 percent) maintained or increased their income.
 - 184 participants exited during the fiscal year, including 110 (65.09 percent) who went to permanent housing.

Family Matters Shelter

- 43 individuals in 16 households obtained emergency shelter through Family Matters, including 19 adults (age 18+), and 24 children; 11 individuals served were chronically homeless.
- The majority of clients (39 or 90.69 percent) identified as Black or African American; 11 individuals (25.58 percent) identified as Hispanic/Latinx.
- 13 participants (30 percent) came into the program with one or more health conditions, including 8 (18.6 percent) with a chronic health condition.
 - 18 individuals in 8 households have exited, including 12 individuals (66.67 percent) who went to permanent housing.
 - 7 adults who exited maintained or increased their income (87.5 percent), including 3 (37.5 percent) who increased their income at program exit.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: As noted in the report, all funds proposed in this report are for the purpose of providing housing and services to prevent, address and end homelessness.

Environmental: The provision of housing and services for homeless persons is intended to address the environmental degradation caused by homeless families and individuals precariously housed or living on the streets.

Race & Equity: In Oakland, the drivers of homelessness fall most squarely on the backs of the African American community who, due to long standing structurally racist practices such as red lining and employment discrimination, are most vulnerable to losing their homes. According to the 2019 Point In Time count for Oakland, 70 percent of the population experiencing homelessness in Oakland identifies as Black or African American; however, this demographic is only 24 percent of the general population. Ending homelessness in Oakland must be defined by what works for African Americans first and foremost in order to reduce the racial disparities. The drivers of homelessness include:

- Structural racism
- Insufficient controls on the rental housing market that create vulnerability and housing instability for tenants
- Insufficient housing units that are affordable to households with the lowest incomes, including particularly those whose incomes are below 20 percent of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Systematic barriers that often prevent residents who are returning home from incarceration from living with family members and/or accessing both public and private rental housing and employment opportunities

- Inadequate pay and benefits for many of the jobs that are available in the community, and insufficient access to quality employment opportunities that pay wages that meet the cost of housing

One of the goals of Oakland's PATH Framework is to eliminate racial disparities and the rates at which people of color experience homelessness, as well as their exits to stable housing. The City utilizes data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to track client demographics and outcomes. A project to disaggregate outcome data by race is currently underway. Additionally, the Human Services Department is currently executing an agreement with a consulting team to support the development of healthy, sustainable community-based organizations that are able to successfully bid, receive, and execute contracts from the City and other government agencies. The goals of the project are to:

- Expand contracts to a larger number and percentage of provider organizations led by, and specifically serving, communities that have been underrepresented or poorly served;
- Expand contracts to more programs located in, or deeply connected to, areas with significant populations of targeted racial or ethnic groups.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt The Following Pieces Of Legislation:

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For questions regarding this report, please contact Lara Tannenbaum, Manager, Community Housing Services Division, at 510-238-6187.

Respectfully submitted,



SARA BEDFORD
Director, Human Services Department

Prepared by:
Lara Tannenbaum, Manager
Community Housing
Human Services Department

Attachments (2):
Attachment A- Summary of Funded Interventions
Attachment B-Funding Plan By Source