



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Sara Bedford
Director, Human Services

SUBJECT: HomeBase Trailers Amendment To
Extend The Term

DATE: October 18, 2021

City Administrator Approval

Date: Nov 2, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Amend The Emergency Professional Services Agreement With Housing Consortium Of The East Bay (HCEB) For The Provision Of Emergency Shelter Services To Individuals At High Risk Of Serious Illness Or Death Due To COVID-19 To Extend The Term Of The Agreement Through June 30, 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed resolution would authorize the City Administrator to amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Emergency Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Housing Consortium Of The East Bay (HCEB) for emergency shelter services at the HomeBase program. The agreement has \$409,000 in State COVID relief funds still remaining in the budget. The term extension will allow HCEB to utilize these funds in FY 21-22.

HCEB has also received, by separate grant agreement, an award of Measure Q funds and Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID (ESG-CV) funds totaling \$1,210,559 for the HomeBase program in FY 21-22. The Measure Q funding, ESG-CV funding and the remaining \$409,000 in Emergency COVID-19 funding together would make the FY 21-22 HCEB budget whole and allow HCEB to provide emergency shelter to 128 homeless individuals at high risk of serious illness or death due to COVID through June 30, 2022.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In spring 2020, the State of California recognized the need for local jurisdictions to quickly have additional funds available to address the COVID pandemic among populations experiencing homelessness. In April 2020, the Interim City Administrator, under his emergency authority as the Emergency Operations Center Director, executed a grant agreement with State of California for receipt of the \$3,239,728.32 in Emergency COVID-19 homelessness funding.

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In FY 20-21, the majority of these funds were used to quickly stand up and then operate the City's COVID response trailers (HomeBase program) on City owned property at 633 Hegenberger Road, serving people experiencing homelessness who are at high risk of serious illness or death from COVID.

Halfway through FY 21-22 the HomeBase program received some funding directly from Alameda County which both enhanced services at the site and covered some of the existing costs. This freed up the State COVID funds to be used for program operations in FY 21-22. The State funds must be fully spent by June 30, 2022.

In FY 21-22, the HomeBase program is funded with a combination of Federal Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID (ESG-CV) funds and City Measure Q funds, authorized in Council Resolutions No. 88416 C.M.S. and 88602 C.M.S., respectively. The remaining funds from the State, \$409,000, are required to make the HomeBase budget whole for FY 21-22 for a total agreement of \$1,619,559 from May, 1 2021 through June 30, 2022. City staff are now seeking direct Council authorization to extend the term of the original emergency agreement rather than continuing to rely on the emergency proclamation.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

People experiencing homelessness are especially vulnerable to contracting Covid-19 as they have limited ability to safely shelter in place. Many unsheltered people also have underlying medical conditions which puts them at especially high risk of serious illness or death due from this disease. Approximately 53% of people experiencing homelessness in Oakland are in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defined groups identified as being at high-risk for severe medical complications from a COVID-19 infection. Since spring f2020, the City, in partnership with the County, has been supporting a wide variety of interventions to address the COVID-19 risk among unsheltered individuals. This included establishing the HomeBase trailer site for emergency Covid response housing.

The 67 HomeBase trailers (serving up to 128 people) are a public health driven intervention. The program's primary goal is to provide a safe place for high risk people to self-isolate and maintain their safety and health. The target population is Oaklanders, with an emphasis on serving people from East Oakland, who are medically vulnerable and/or 65+ years-old, and at risk of serious complications from COVID19.

If the remaining State funds are not authorized for the HomeBase program the site will close in spring 2022 and Oakland will lose 128 emergency shelter beds from its homelessness system. Additionally, the City runs the risk of having the funds recaptured by the State if they are not spent.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed resolution authorizes the City Administrator to amend the Emergency HomeBase agreement with HCEB extend the term through June 2022. This will allow the remaining \$409,000 in State COVID funds to be used. These funds are in Fund (2159), Community Housing Services Org (78411), Project (1005303), Fostering Safe and Healthy Communities Program (SC22).

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

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

COORDINATION

This report and legislation have been reviewed by the Office of the City Attorney, the Homelessness Administrator, the Department of Public Works and the Budget Bureau.

PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

In FY 20-21 the HomeBase program served 198 individuals who were homeless and at high risk of serious illness or death due to COVID. 74% of people served were African American. 77 people left the program during this year and 34% of those exits were to permanent housing. While these outcomes are roughly comparable to any emergency shelter, it is important to note that for the first year of operation, during the height of the pandemic, the focus of the program was on helping people to safely shelter in place. More recently, the program has begun working more intensely with people on exiting to permanent housing. The HomeBase program is a part of the larger Project Roomkey initiatives in Alameda County (which also include the City funded Lake Merritt Lodge and the County funded Safer Ground hotels) and are participating in the various exit strategies being used for these interventions. This includes being prioritized for federal funds for housing subsidies and for new emergency housing choice vouchers.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: All funds identified in this report are to provide services to the unsheltered residents of Oakland.

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: The expenditure of these funds is targeted to the most vulnerable and at-risk populations in this City and is providing essential and basic human services. Seventy percent of people experiencing homelessness in Oakland are African American compared with 24 percent of the general population. Both homelessness and COVID disproportionately impacts African American households and other communities of color in Oakland. These funds ensure that Oakland is sustaining emergency shelter beds that both address the crisis of unsheltered homelessness and the crisis of COVID.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Amend The Emergency Professional Services Agreement With Housing Consortium Of The East Bay (HCEB) For The Provision Of Emergency Shelter Services To Individuals At High Risk Of Serious Illness Or Death Due To COVID-19 To Extend The Term Of The Agreement Through June 30, 2022.

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

Respectfully submitted,



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