



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Sara Bedford
Director, Human Services

SUBJECT: Resolution Amending Resolution
88558 Continuum of Care Funds

DATE: October 14, 2021

City Administrator Approval 

Date: Nov 2, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Amending Resolution 88558 C.M.S. To Authorize The City Administrator To Reallocate \$190,408 In Continuum Of Care (CoC) Grant Funds From First Place For Youth To Covenant House California And Authorizing The city Administrator To Amend The Grant Agreement With Covenant House California To Increase The Amount By \$190,408 For A Total Grant Amount Not To Exceed \$525,735 For The Provision Of Transitional Housing And Supportive Services To Homeless Youth Through July 31, 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adoption of the proposed resolution will amend Resolution No. 88558 C.M.S., allowing the City Administrator to amend the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant Agreement with Covenant House to add funds. This resolution also removes First Place for Youth from the Oakland Homeless Youth Housing Collaborative (OHYHC), per their request.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The City of Oakland has annually (since 1994) received new and renewal grant awards under the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) competitive Super Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process. Current HUD CoC grants include:

- Matilda Cleveland Families in Transition Housing Program (MCFIT)
- Housing Fast Support Network (HFSN)
- The Holland (The Grand)
- Oakland Homeless Youth Housing Collaborative (OHYHC)
- North County Homeless Family Rapid Rehousing Collaborative (NCFRRHC)
- North County Homeless Youth Rapid Rehousing Collaborative (NCHYRRHC).

The City has been awarded the OHYHC grant since 2015. The Collaborative serves transition-aged youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness and provides transitional housing and supportive services.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Since the start of the collaborative, the OHYHC partner agencies have been Covenant House of California (CHC), East Oakland Community Project (EOCP), and First Place for Youth (First Place). OHYHC has 31 slots of transitional housing available at any given time; 22 slots in congregate living situations with CHC and EOCP; and nine scattered-site slots in apartments located throughout Oakland managed by First Place. In May of 2021, First Place informed City staff that they would like to withdraw from OHYHC at the end of the current grant period (July 31, 2021). First Place has a strong program model for serving youth that does not totally align with HUD's requirements for subgrantees and making their success under this specific type of federal funding challenging.

Federal funds for OHYHC are awarded through two sequential competitive processes. The first is a local process managed by the local Continuum of Care (Everyone Home) where individual grantee agencies, or collaboratives of agencies, are evaluated, rated and ranked based on program performance. Programs which are ranked above a threshold are included in the CoC's application to the annual HUD NOFA competition. The most recent competition was in 2019 to fund programming for FY 2020-21. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD announced that in lieu of an FY 2021-22 competition, all existing grants were automatically renewed. Therefore, First Place was automatically awarded funds despite their voluntary decision to withdraw.

The City named three agencies as grantees in the 2020-21 NOFA competition: Covenant House California, East Oakland Community Project, and First Place for Youth. In order to remain in compliance with HUD and maintain level funding and a level amount of services, staff would like to allocate the funds from First Place For Youth to Covenant House for the 2021-22 grant year. Covenant House had already expressed an interest in expanding their program to include scattered site units and has the capacity to ramp up the new units quickly to ensure that the overall program performance of the grant was not impacted by the change.

Without reallocating the funds to an existing OHYHC grantee, the City will lose nine housing slots for transition age youth. This will also impact the possibility of having the program renewed at its current level in future NOFA competitions which are taking place now.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed resolution will sustain funding for housing services for transition age youth who are homeless and has no impact on the City's General Purpose Funds or grant funds.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

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

COORDINATION

Coordination has occurred between the Human Services Department (HSD), and Budget Bureau in the preparation of this report and resolution.

PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

2019-20 Outcomes	OHYHC Totals	Covenant House Totals*
Total transitional age youth (TAY) served	63	31
Literally homeless at program entry	100%	100%
TAY with one or more disabling conditions	50%	71%
Chronically homeless (homeless for over 12 months with a disability) prior to program entry	27%	30%
TAY served who entered the program with zero income	31%	35%
TAY who exited to permanent housing	50%	58%
Black or African American TAY who exited and went to permanent housing	54%	55%
2019-20 OHYHC Demographics	OHYHC Totals	Covenant House Totals*
Black or African American	63.5%	58%
White	12%	22.5%
Multiple Races	8%	13%
American Indian or Alaska Native	6.5%	6%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3%	
Hispanic or Latinx	16%	22.5%

**included in OHYHC Totals*

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: As noted in the report, all funds identified in this report are for the purpose of providing housing and services to the homeless to eliminate and prevent homelessness.

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

Race & Equity: According to the 2019 Point in Time (PIT) Count, TAY youth represented 13.4 percent of the population experiencing homelessness in Oakland, higher than Alameda County overall (9.5 percent). Limited data are available on TAY experiencing homelessness because they often have a harder time accessing services, including housing. National research suggests that this is likely due to the stigma of homelessness, lack of knowledge of available resources, and a dearth of services targeted to young people. The 2019 PIT does show that 70 percent of the total population experiencing homelessness in Oakland identifies as Black or African American; however, this demographic is 24 percent of the general population.

OHYHC fills an essential gap in the homelessness system to serve youth, and as noted above, 63.5 percent of OHYHC participants are Black or African American.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Amending Resolution 88558 C.M.S. To Authorize The City Administrator To Reallocate \$190,408 In Continuum Of Care Grant Funds From First Place For Youth To Covenant House California And Authorizing The city Administrator To Amend The Grant Agreement With Covenant House California To Increase The Amount By \$190,408 For A Total Grant Amount Not To Exceed \$525,735 For The Provision Of Transitional Housing And Supportive Services To Homeless Youth Through July 31, 2022.

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

Respectfully submitted,



SARA BEDFORD,
Director, Human Services Department

Reviewed by:
Lara Tannenbaum, Manager
Community Homelessness Services Division

Prepared by:
Emily Derenthal, Program Analyst II
Community Homelessness Services Division

