



# AGENDA REPORT

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**TO:** Edward D. Reiskin  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Sara Bedford  
Director, Human Services

**SUBJECT:** FY 2020-2021 Oakland Path  
Rehousing Initiative (OPRI) Family  
Expansion

**DATE:** August 24, 2020

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City Administrator Approval

Date: September 2, 2020

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## RECOMMENDATION

### Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution To:

1. **Allocate \$277,348 In Measure Q (2020 Oakland Parks And Recreation Preservation, Litter Reduction, And Homelessness Support Act) Funds For Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 For The Provision Of Permanent Housing Subsidies And Supportive Services To Homeless Families Participating In The Oakland PATH Rehousing Initiative (OPRI) Program; And**
2. **Award A Grant To Building Futures With Women And Children In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,405,948 For FY 2020-2021 For The Provision Of Permanent Housing Subsidies And Support Services For Homeless Families Under OPRI.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adoption of this resolution will authorize the City Administrator to expand the existing Oakland PATH Rehousing Initiative (OPRI) program to begin serving approximately 40 homeless families. The resolution would authorize the allocation and use of \$277,348 in Measure Q funds to provide permanent housing subsidies and supportive services for the families and would award a grant to Building Futures for Women and Children to operate the OPRI family program in fiscal year (FY) 2020-2021, using additional funds the City expects to receive, accept and appropriate from the Oakland Housing Authority for FY 2020-2021, as authorized by Resolution No. 87698 C.M.S., as well as the Measure Q funds allocated by this proposed resolution. The adoption of the proposed resolution would increase the total service levels for the OPRI program, providing approximately 140 homeless and near homeless individuals and families with services and housing.

## **BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

The OPRI strategy, which began in 2010, assists individuals who are homeless living in encampments or on the streets, youth 18-24 who are exiting the foster care or juvenile justice systems, and young adults ages 18-35, who are at-high risk of being perpetrators or victims of violence and who are homeless, imminently homeless or unstably housed. Since 2010, OPRI has successfully housed more than 400 formerly homeless Oakland residents. Funding for housing subsidies is provided by the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA), and funding for services and program administration is provided by the City of Oakland. The City uses the OHA funds to enter into grant agreements with service providers for housing subsidies.

The OPRI program now has a secondary component, OPRI Step Down. This process allows those individuals who have been successful in the program to “step down” their level of intensive case management and receive an OHA Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) for rental subsidy instead of using OPRI subsidy funds. The program has had twenty-three individuals Step Down since the process began in 2016. The Step Down process creates additional spots for new clients to become enrolled in the original OPRI program with intensive case management and rental subsidy.

In the spring of 2020, the City of Oakland submitted a request to OHA to expand the OPRI program to include homeless families as an additional population to be served. In June 2020 the OHA Board approved an increase in OHA OPRI funding in the amount of \$1,128,600 to expand the program to serve 40 families. Also in June 2020, the Oakland City Council adopted the FY 2020-2021 Midcycle Budget which included allocation of Measure Q funds for homeless services. A portion of these funds will be used to fund the new services for the OPRI families.

## **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

Every night there are an estimated 120 unsheltered families in Oakland/North County (Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville, Albany, Piedmont) living on the streets, in tents or in cars. Over the course of a year, 500 families in Oakland comprising over 10,000 children, will experience unsheltered homelessness.<sup>1</sup> Existing resources are insufficient to meet the needs of homeless families in the North County and the current family homeless system is at capacity almost every night.

Recent Alameda County systems modeling work, completed with the support of a technical assistance team from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) identified the gaps between existing homeless and housing resources and what is needed. Not surprisingly, the process identified the lack of long term rental subsidies and deeply affordable permanent housing as significant gaps in the system. The expansion of the OPRI program to include families addresses this need to increase the supply of deeply affordable housing for Oakland residents experiencing homelessness.

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<sup>1</sup> HUD Technical Assistance System Modeling- spring 2020

To implement the expansion of OPRI, the City proposes to enter into a grant agreement with Building Futures for Women and Children (BFWC) for the provision of permanent housing and support services for unsheltered families. BFWC is an agency with 34 years of experience serving homeless families in Oakland and Alameda County. They are the lead agency of the Family Front Door, the Coordinated Entry System for homeless families in Northern Alameda County

Failure to adopt this resolution will result in the OPRI program not expanding to serve approximately 40 homeless families.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Oakland will receive funds from Measure Q and the City seeks to allocate \$277,348 to provide supportive services to an additional 40 unsheltered families in the OPRI program. In addition to Measure Q funds, Oakland will receive \$1,061,093 in funding from the Oakland Housing Authority for assistance with rent subsidies and security deposit assistance for these 40 unsheltered families. The Oakland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners approved an increase in funding to the City of Oakland for the OPRI Program on June 22, 2020, effective July 1, 2020. The City of Oakland will receive funds upon the execution of the grant agreement with the Oakland Housing Authority. **Table 1**, below, provides further breakdown of these fund allocations.

**Table 1**

AGENCY	FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
BFWC	OHA	\$1,128,600
	MEASURE Q	\$277,348
<b>TOTAL GRANT</b>		<b>\$1,405,948</b>

The City of Oakland will be reducing the FY 2020-2021 grant awards to Abode and First Place for Youth for OPRI housing subsidies in the amount of \$67,507. This reduction makes up the difference needed to fully fund the Building Futures for Women & Children FY 2020-2021 grant award. **Table 2**, below, shows the funding breakdown for all three partnering agencies.

**Table 2**

AGENCY	FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
ABODE	OHA	\$ 1,684,823.95
FPFY	OHA	\$ 267,669.45
BFWC	OHA	\$ 1,128,600.00
<b>TOTAL GRANT</b>		<b>\$ 3,081,093.40</b>

**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 were prepared in coordination with the Office of the City Attorney, the Budget Bureau, the Human Services Department and the Oakland Housing Authority.

**PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

Initiated in 2010, OPRI has successfully housed 400 formerly homeless Oakland residents with subsidies provided by OHA and services and program administration contracted by the City of Oakland.

OPRI Grant To Date: Clients Served	
Encampment Referred:	88
Behavioral Health Encampment Referred:	49
Reentry Referred:	108
Senior Shelter Referred:	19
Homeless Youth:	136
Total as of June 30,2020	400

The current OPRI agencies have exceeded expected outcomes and performance measures.

Performance during FY 2019-2020 (July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020):

- 122 households received housing subsidies.
  - 15 of those households are Targeted At-Risk Youth.
    - Ninety-three percent (93%) exited to stable housing,
    - Sixty percent (60%) were in OPRI for at least 1 year before exiting,
    - Eighty percent (80%) exited with income from employment (employed at exit).
    - Demographics

- Eighty-six percent (86%) of clients served are Black/African-American
- Fourteen percent (14%) of clients served are Hispanic/Latino
- 112 of those households are adults between the ages of 25-74.
  - One hundred percent (100%) were housed at least 6 months,
  - One hundred percent (100%) were housed at least 1 year and
  - Sixty-one percent (61%) were housed at least 3 years.
- Demographics
  - Eighty-one percent (81%) of clients served are Black/African American,
  - Nine percent (9%) are White
  - Five percent (5%) are Multiple Races
  - Three percent (3%) are Asian
  - Two percent (2%) are American Indian

Staff anticipate equally strong outcomes once the program expands to serve homeless families. Currently, BFWC serves the same population of homeless families under their U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded City of Oakland Continuum of Care (COC) family rapid rehousing grant. The grant term for the COC Family Grant is November 2019 through October 2020.

Performance for first three quarters of the COC Family Grant 11/1/2019 – 6/30/2020:

- 75 individuals in 27 families were served in the program; of these 27 families, 3 were parented by a youth under the age of 25
- 35 adults and 40 children (under 18) were served in the program
- 43 individuals (18 families) exited the program, 85 percent to a positive destination

Demographics:

- Eighty-three percent (83%) are Black/African American
- Twelve percent (12%) are Multiple Races
- Five percent (5%) are White
- Five percent (5%) identified as Hispanic/Latino (these 4 are also counted in the Race breakdown above)

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** All funds identified in this report are for the purpose of providing housing and services to the homeless to eliminate and prevent homelessness. Living in a stable, adequate home that is affordable to the household creates a multitude of opportunities and stronger sustainable outcomes for children, youth, and adults. A stable home provides an environment for future educational attainment, employment growth and economic security.

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

**Race & Equity:** Seventy percent of people experiencing homelessness in Oakland are African American. The recent systems modeling work in Alameda County used a racial equity framework to identify the needs of African Americans experiencing homelessness. Racial disparities were specifically identified in rates of entry into homelessness and rates of return to homelessness. Not surprisingly, permanent deeply affordable housing was identified as one of the primary resources needed to end people's homelessness (needed by 28 percent of people). Adoption of this resolution expands the permanent housing options for families experiencing homelessness.

### **ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution To:

- 1.) Allocate \$277,348 In Measure Q (2020 Oakland Parks And Recreation Preservation, Litter Reduction, And Homelessness Support Act) Funds For FY 2020-2021 For The Provision Of Permanent Housing Subsidies and Supportive Services To Homeless Families Participating In The Oakland PATH Rehousing Initiative (OPRI) Program; And
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For questions regarding this report, please contact Lara Tannenbaum, Community Housing Services Manager, at 238-6187.

Respectfully submitted,



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