



# AGENDA REPORT

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Youth Spirit Artworks Timeframe  
Extension and Grant Increase

**DATE:** August 23, 2021

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City Administrator Approval 

Date: September 7, 2021

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Amend The Grant Agreement With Youth Spirit Artworks (YSA) For The Provision Of Transitional Housing And Supportive Services For Homeless Transitional Age Youth In Oakland To Extend The Term Through June 30, 2022 And To Increase The Grant Amount By Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$220,000) For A Total Grant Amount Of Six Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$631,316).**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposed resolution would authorize the City Administrator to extend the time frame through June 30, 2022 of the grant agreement between the City of Oakland and Youth Spirit Artworks (YSA), a local nonprofit, to fund their Tiny Homes Youth Village. The Tiny Homes Village provides transitional housing and supportive services for transitional age youth (TAY) who are homeless. The resolution also increases the grant amount by \$220,000 to provide funding to cover program costs for the duration of the grant agreement for a total of \$631,316 over the 2-fiscal year period.

Adoption of this resolution will maintain necessary safe beds to address homelessness among young people in the City of Oakland. This program also connects homeless youth to income generation, job development, supportive services and permanent housing.

## **BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

On August 1, 2019 the City Council adopted Resolution No. 87834 C.M.S. authorizing the City Administrator to enter into grant agreements with various organizations and nonprofits. In this resolution, funding was allocated to YSA for transitional housing for youth experiencing homelessness. The funding was authorized for fiscal year (FY) 2020-21. Due to capital infrastructure delays, the program began operations in the fall of FY 2020-21. Staff are seeking authority to extend the grant agreement through FY 2021-22 and increase the grant amount by \$220,000 to ensure that the program can continue to operate through FY 2021-22.

## **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

The January 2019 EveryOne Home Homeless count indicates that, on any given night, there are an estimated 447 homeless TAY ages 18-24 in Oakland. Seventy-five (75) percent of these youth are unsheltered, a slight increase from the unsheltered count from 2017. Due to the nature of youth homeless, it is widely accepted that reported youth homeless numbers are vastly based on an undercount. In Oakland there are approximately 48 emergency shelter beds dedicated for homeless youth and an estimated 164 transitional housing beds for this population, including those dedicated to youth existing the Foster Care system.

Youth Spirit Artworks Transitional Housing Program, the Tiny Youth Village, offers 22 beds which are included in the total of 164 transitional housing beds for youth. This intervention provides hands-on support tailored to the unique needs of youth ages 18 – 24 in need of shelter and supportive services. Main components include immediate shelter, assistance with locating permanent housing, job development, increase in income, case management and services support.

The Tiny Youth Village is aligned with Oakland's Permanent Access to Housing (PATH) Strategy of maintaining, improving, and increasing crisis response beds, rehousing people quickly, increasing and stabilizing income, and making connections to permanent housing.

The Tiny Youth Village run by Youth Spirit Artworks has been celebrated throughout the Oakland community and there has been an outpouring of community support through hundreds of volunteers who designed and built the site. If the City Council chooses not to adopt the proposed resolution, Youth Spirit Artworks will not be able to operate the Tiny Youth Village for the full 12 months of FY 2021-22.

In addition, as the City Council has expressed support for funding the YSA Tiny Home Village through FY 2022-23, staff will return to the City Council in October 2021 with a resolution to accept a new award of funds from the State Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention grant program (HHAP-2) funds. As part of that resolution, staff will seek authority to use HHAP-2 funds to support the YSA program through FY 2022-23.

YSA's Tiny Home Village advances the City of Oakland's priorities of **holistic community safety** and **housing, economic, and cultural security**. This program provides housing with economic support to homeless Oakland youth with unique needs, keeping them safe from sleeping and living in uninhabitable spaces.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The proposed resolution authorizes the City Administrator to extend the timeframe of the program through FY 2021-22 using \$220,000 in HHAP-1 funds - State Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) funds- Fund (2159), Community Housing Services Org (78411), Project (1005248), Fostering Safe and Healthy Communities Program (SC22). HHAP funds have a required youth set-aside to fund TAY programs.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST**

No outreach was deemed necessary for the proposed policy action beyond the standard City Council noticing procedures. Youth are referred to the Tiny Home Village through the Coordinated Entry System as required by HUD.

### **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**

The Tiny Home Village (THV) began serving young people in December 2020. To date this transitional housing program has served 25 youth age 25 or younger, 12 of which are already considered chronically homeless at this young age. Currently 10 residents of the THV identify as African American, 8 identify as white and 4 identify as other nationalities. Seventy (70) percent of residents have a verifiable disability and 57 percent have been diagnosed with a mental health illness. In just a little over six-months of operation, YSA has supported the unification of two youth to permanent housing with family or friends and assisted with two youth acquiring permanent housing in a public housing unit.

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Economic:** All funds identified in this report are to provide services to unsheltered youth in Oakland, including job development and placement, case management and support services.

**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:** 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. Homelessness in Oakland disproportionately impacts African American households. Seventy percent of people experiencing homelessness in Oakland are African American compared with 24 percent of the general population. These funds ensure that Oakland is creating pathways out of homelessness.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

Respectfully submitted,



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