



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Sara Bedford
Director, Human Services

SUBJECT: SAVE Workforce Development
Timeframe Extension

DATE: September 24, 2020

City Administrator Approval 

Date: October 8, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To: 1) Amend Resolution No. 87834 C.M.S. To Extend The Grant Award Term End Date To S.A.V.E Center For Community Change And Empowerment (S.A.V.E.) To June 30, 2021; And 2) Increase The Grant Award Amount To S.A.V.E. If Additional General Purpose Funding Becomes Available For The Same Purpose Within The Extended Grant Term, Without Returning To Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed resolution would authorize the City Administrator to extend the timeframe to enter into a grant agreement between the City of Oakland and S.A.V.E Center For Community Change And Empowerment (SAVE), a local nonprofit, to provide workforce opportunities and engagement for individuals who are homeless and unsheltered from November 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Adoption of this resolution will expand the City's existing interventions of health and hygiene services by providing increased litter and garbage abatement at homeless encampments and along major thoroughfares in West Oakland. The pilot program also presents an opportunity for unsheltered persons to develop the skills necessary to acquire and/or maintain gainful employment.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On August 1, 2019 the City Council passed Resolution No. 87834 C.M.S. authorizing the City Administrator to enter into grant agreements with various organizations and nonprofits. In this resolution, \$350,000 was allocated to SAVE for workforce development services for people experiencing homelessness. The funding was authorized for fiscal year (FY) 2019-20. Due to organizational changes within SAVE, the grant was not executed in FY 2019-20. Staff are seeking authority to execute the grant agreement in FY 2020-21 and to extend the term of the grant through June 30, 2021 to ensure that the program can be implemented and that outcomes

City Council
October 20, 2020

can be monitored to guide future decision-making around extending the time of performance for this intervention.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

The Point-in-Time Homeless Count from January 2019 estimated that there are 3,210 unsheltered persons in Oakland on a given day. In addition, the Point-in-Time Homeless Count documented an additional 861 people staying in shelters and transitional housing. These numbers represent a 63 percent increase in the numbers of unsheltered people in Oakland and a 47 percent increase in numbers of homeless individuals in total.

According to the 2019 The Point-in-Time Homeless Count, when asked what might have prevented their homelessness, many people identified financial assistance; 35 percent rental assistance, 32 percent benefits/income. Entering into this grant agreement with SAVE to provide workforce development for unsheltered individuals will provide a pathway towards greater income generation through employment. In addition to the program's social impact, the program will result in a reduction of garbage buildup in encampments and major thoroughfares in West Oakland.

SAVE intends to create a program called the Community Action Partnership (CAP) in order to ultimately connect at least 75 homeless Oaklanders to some form of job training- including a work experience program, lifeskills classes, and referrals to other employment programs. As part of that training, which involves community cleanup and blight abatement, participants will also receive case management services, access to life management classes, and the ability to receive up to \$1,400 in stipends for completing individual development goals. Additionally, participants gain access to transportation vouchers, work supplies, and gift cards for basic needs through the program. Through a subcontract with Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS), CAP participants will primarily provide cleanup services in Downtown and West Oakland. Twenty people are expected to obtain permanent living wage employment.

If the City Council chooses not to adopt the proposed resolution, the CAP program will not be established.

FISCAL IMPACT

Resolution No. 87834 C.M.S. authorized a one-time funding appropriation of \$350,000 for SAVE to provide a workforce program for individuals experiencing homelessness in FY 2019-20. Funding was made available in the General Purpose Fund (1010), Community Housing Services Org (78411), Project (1001142), Fostering Safe and Healthy Communities Program (SC22). During this year's Midcycle Budget process, this funding was transferred from 1010 to Measure Q's fund (2244).

Funding is now available for this program in 1.2244.78411. 1001142.SC22.

The proposed resolution authorizes the City Administrator to extend the timeframe of using those funds through FY 2020-21 and authorizes the City Administrator to amend the grant agreement to increase the grant amount within the grant term of additional funds become available.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

This report did not require public outreach other than the required posting on the City's website.

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.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

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

Environmental: The scope of work provided by the workforce development program is intended to address the environmental impacts of litter and debris in homeless encampments and in major thoroughfares within West Oakland.

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.¹ These funds ensure that Oakland is creating pathways out of homelessness through income generation.

¹ Oakland Point-In-Time-Count - 2019

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To: 1) Amend Resolution No. 87834 C.M.S. To Extend The Grant Award Term End Date To S.A.V.E Center For Community Change And Empowerment (S.A.V.E.) To June 30, 2021; And 2) Increase The Grant Award Amount To S.A.V.E. If Additional General Purpose Funding Becomes Available For The Same Purpose Within The Extended Grant Term, Without Returning To Council.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Bedford". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

SARA BEDFORD,
Director, Human Services Department

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