



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: November 13, 2018

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Authorization To Submit An Application To The Santa Barbara County Continuum Of Care For Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Grant Funding

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize staff to submit an application to the Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care for HEAP grant funding.

DISCUSSION:

In 2018, the State of California enacted the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) as part of California Senate Bill 850. HEAP provides \$500 million in block grants to cities and counties to address homelessness throughout the state. HEAP funds may be expended on a variety of uses that address homelessness, such as prevention, emergency aid, and criminal justice diversion programs for persons with mental health needs.

Santa Barbara County is eligible to receive up to \$9.4 million in HEAP funds. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 50212(a)(1), in order for a municipality to qualify for HEAP funding, a shelter crisis must be formally declared. On September 18, 2018, Council made this declaration.

In accordance with HEAP regulations, this funding will be allocated through each community's Continuum of Care (CoC), a federal program that promotes community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness. Locally, the CoC program is administered by the Santa Barbara County Housing and Community Development Division, which on October 12, 2018, released a Notice of Funding Availability to solicit proposals for HEAP funds from eligible organizations. The application deadline is November 16, 2018.

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In preparation for this competitive HEAP-grant application process, the City has established a partnership with Cottage Hospital, the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara, CityNet, and People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), and is developing a comprehensive program to address the homelessness crisis within the City.

Due to the rapid nature of the funding process, the details available at the time this staff report was drafted are still in development. In brief, the proposed program contains the following components:

- Street outreach of prioritized vulnerable individuals, which includes embedding a nurse practitioner with the Santa Barbara Police Department Restorative Policing program.
- Coordination of services for the identified individuals, which includes placement in appropriate programs such as a Cottage Hospital's Bridge Clinic, emergency shelter placements, and rapid rehousing.
- Development of bridge housing.

The staff presentation to Council will include greater detail on the final proposed program, as well as commentary from each of our partners on their respective roles in the process. The Council may direct staff to modify the contents of the grant application if they so choose. In the meantime, the attached County of Santa Barbara Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) provides preliminary information and guidelines for the application process.

ATTACHMENT: County of Santa Barbara Notice of Funding Availability

PREPARED BY: Laura Dubbels, Housing and Human Services Manager

SUBMITTED BY: George Buell, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office