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Council File: New
Council District(s): Citywide
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The Honorable Gilbert A. Cedillo
Chair, Housing Committee
Los Angeles City Council
Room 455, City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: John White, Legislative Assistant

COMMITTEE TRANSMITTAL: REPORT RELATIVE TO STABLE FUNDING FOR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER OPERATIONS PROGRAM

Summary

On May 21, 2015, pursuant to the adoption of the Mayor's 2015-2016 budget, the City Council instructed the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) to report to the Housing Committee on finding a more stable or permanent funding source for domestic violence shelters. HCIDLA administers the City's Domestic Violence Shelter Operations (DVSO) program, which was funded this year at approximately \$2.3 million. Funding consists of \$1.2 million of the City's Community Development Block Grant and \$1.1 million of General Funds, and provides 473 shelter beds and supportive services for up to 1,500 victims of domestic violence (adults and children).

The current funding level represents about 11% of the total cost of the emergency and transitional beds and services provided, so the program is already highly leveraged with other government and private sources of funds. Although the Council instruction was to identify more stable funding for the DVSO program, the program already taps into a large variety of other funds, with few other options available that can be counted on year after year.

Background

City funding for the DVSO program has been reduced over the last five years by approximately \$650,000 annually and the program is highly leveraged, as described below. The reduction in funding correlates to fewer shelter services and amenities for the victims of domestic violence. Until Program

Year (PY) 2013-14, the DVSO program was funded entirely by federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public service funds. Beginning in PY 2014-15, the amount of CDBG funding the City could allocate for public services was significantly reduced due to a finding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Subsequently, the City began supplementing programs previously funded wholly by CDBG with General Funds, including HCIDLA’s DVSO program.

Year	CDBG Funding	General Funds	Total Funding DVSO	Contract Term
2010-2011	\$2,950,688	0	\$2,950,688	12 months April - March
2011-2012	\$2,693,740	0	\$2,693,740	Same
2012-2013	\$2,493,600	0	\$2,493,600	Same
2013-2014	\$2,493,600	0	\$2,493,600	Same
2014-2015	\$1,744,240	\$500,000	\$2,244,240	15 months April – June
2015-2016	\$1,197,746	\$1,100,000	\$2,297,746	12 months July - June

In PY 2015-2016 the City is contracting with the eight (8) DVSO agencies listed below for 473 emergency and transitional housing beds and supportive services. Each contractor will receive between \$138,000 and \$277,126 in City funds, depending upon the number of beds and services provided.

- 1736 Family Crisis Center
- Center for the Pacific Asian Family
- Haven Hills, Inc.
- Jenesse Center
- Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
- Ocean Park Community Center
- Rainbow Services
- Southern California Alcohol & Drug Programs, Inc.

DVSO Leverage: A survey of the DVSO contractors showed that City funding pays an average of approximately 11% of the total cost of the shelter beds and services for which we contract. To fully fund their shelter programs, contractors tap into an average of 12 additional funding streams. Most have a mix of government and foundation money, as well as other private contributions. The most stable source of funding is through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) through the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, reauthorized in 2013. The Act provides grants nation-wide designed to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. All DVSO agencies funded by the City currently receive DOJ funding. However, few consistently reliable public or private funding streams exist for domestic violence shelters and often programs and funding for domestic violence are housed with programs targeted for sexual assault-related services, diluting the funding available for shelter.

The DVSO contracts receive funding from the government offices listed below:

Americorp
Department of Agriculture
Department of Justice
Department of Transportation
Department of Labor
Health and Human Services

Housing and Urban Development
Homeland Security
Department of Veterans Affairs
California Office of Emergency Services
California Office of the Governor
California Department of Aging

California Office of Public Health
Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Social
Services
Los Angeles County Dept. of Mental Health
Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
City of Long Beach
City of Redondo Beach
City of Santa Monica

Due to the fact that the DVSO providers already receive funding from numerous other sources, there are few, if any other stable options to take the place of annual City funding. However, we would suggest that City's DVSO program be considered as an integral part of the City's homeless strategy. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers persons fleeing domestic violence and in shelter to be homeless. In the 2015 Homeless Count conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) 8,801 people identified themselves as having a domestic violence experience, up from 3,159 in the 2013 Homeless Count – almost a three-fold increase – establishing a clear connection between domestic violence and homelessness. The City's DVSO program includes working with clients to identify safe, permanent, and affordable housing. The providers also work with LAHSA's Homeless Families Solutions program and other entities to identify housing options.

Prepared by:



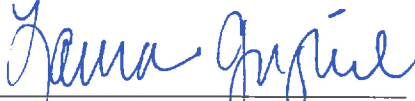
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