

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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Homelessness and Poverty Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
c/o Eric Villanueva  
City Clerk  
Room 395, City Hall

## **COMMITTEE TRANSMITTAL: REPORT BACK ON THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (LA:RISE) EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM, COMBINING RAPID RE-HOUSING AND TRANSITIONAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE JOBS FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AND SOUTH LOS ANGELES REGIONS**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The General Manager of the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) and the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) respectfully requests that the Homelessness and Poverty Committee:

1. ACCEPT the Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise expansion pilot program contained in this report; and
2. INSTRUCT the EWDD General Manager, or designee, and the LAHSA Executive Director, or designee, to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the LA:RISE pilot program and report to the City Council on the measured outcomes related to placement, retention, and recidivism for the fifty (50) homeless individuals to-be-served in the San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles regions.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

There is no additional impact on the General Fund. The rapid re-housing (CES Rapid Rehousing for Singles and Youth Systems) and LA:RISE, a program in which participants

receive job training, get paid work experience and eventually transition into the workforce are funded through the approved Annual Budget for fiscal year 2016-2017.

## **SUMMARY**

On October 18, 2016, Councilmembers Krekorian and Harris-Dawson introduced a motion (C.F. 16-1178) instructing the Economic and Workforce Development Department and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency to report to the City Council on creating a pilot program that combines rapid re-housing and transitional social enterprise jobs through LA:RISE for individuals who are homeless in the San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles.

## **BACKGROUND**

Homelessness is an ongoing issue in the City of Los Angeles with a wide variety of social and economic causes and implications, a broad range of neighborhood impacts and overwhelmingly difficult solutions that will take a great deal of time to implement. In light of this crisis, the City has dedicated millions of dollars for a broad range of services to house, heal, and employ the city's homeless. The Coordinated Entry System has the potential to greatly improve service delivery, providing a wide range of paths for the homeless to access critical, often life-saving services and offering a "no wrong door" approach based on their individualized need.

However, even with Coordinated Entry, it is still largely incumbent on each homeless individual to seek the right combination of services to meet their needs. Much of the overall homeless population may not be aware of the full range of programs for which they are eligible and which may improve their lives. Furthermore, individual providers often don't coordinate with each other to pair complementary programs and avoid duplication of services.

Even in the best of circumstances, when a homeless individual does not suffer from debilitating mental health or substance abuse challenge, changing and improving that person's life often requires a significant investment in services. Rapid re-housing by itself only offers short and medium term rental assistance and opens the possibility for recidivism back onto the street without a sustainable source of income when the period of assistance ends. Similarly, enrolling a homeless person into a job training program without offering a place for that person to live and adapt to a housed way of life will prevent them from re-entering the mainstream job market. In a vacuum, each of these programs is hugely important, but each only provides half the solution to bringing an individual permanently out of homelessness.

LA:RISE hopes to expand further into the San Fernando Valley, a region with a rapidly growing homeless population. Another region of the city with the largest homeless population outside of skid row is South Los Angeles. This region has struggled with obtaining access to a wide range of quality employment related assistance such as job skills, training, referrals, and placement.

## **LA:RISE Program Design**

LA:RISE is designed to help people with employment barriers find long-term work, by taking an integrated, wrap-around approach to job creation. Participants receive a steady paycheck while in Transitional Employment at a Social Enterprise along with the counseling, support, and training they need to succeed for a collaboration of partner organizations. Under the LA:RISE initiative, individuals will progress from Transitional (subsidized) Employment, to Bridge (unsubsidized) and/or competitive employment in the open labor market.

A comprehensive EWDD report, dated June 7, 2016, was presented to the Homelessness and Poverty Committee on June 8, 2016 (C.F.16-0600-S22), and provided an update on the LA:RISE program design, target population, service delivery goals, and connection to the City's goal of 5,000 new hires.

### **LA:RISE Expansion Pilot Program Design**

The LA:RISE expansion pilot program will consist of working primarily with Goodwill, Chrysalis Social Enterprises, and respective regional WorkSource Centers to partner with LAHSA and its partner agencies, which include LA Family Housing and Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS), to provide employment services and short term rental housing assistance to individuals who are homeless in the San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles. Personal support provider agencies such as Friends Outside, LIFT, and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition will continue to work with individuals once they are placed in competitive employment.

### **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)**

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) defines rapid re-housing as “an intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without preconditions — like employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety — and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household.” Unlike permanent subsidy programs, rapid re-housing is intended to provide short-term rental assistance (typically 6-months) along with the necessary supportive services to regain housing stability. Rapid re-housing programs adhere to the USICH Benchmarks and Standards of Rapid Re-Housing, modeled on three core components; 1) housing identification, 2) rent and move-in assistance, and 3) case management and services.

#### *Housing Identification*

Housing identification and search assistance is intended to assist participants with housing opportunities that will ultimately be sustainable for the participant after exit from the program.

#### *Rent and Move-In Assistance*

Rapid Re-Housing programs provide the necessary rental and move-in assistance to participants to quickly access and stabilize in permanent housing. Ongoing rental assistance is provided based upon the needs of the participant and for as long as is needed to regain housing stability.

### *Case Management and Services*

Client-centered case management services aim to identify barriers to housing stability and provide the necessary assistance to address those barriers. Case management services should be voluntary and focus on linking the participant to community resources and supports that will assist with long-term housing stability.

### **Linking Rapid Re-Housing and Long Term Employment Stability**

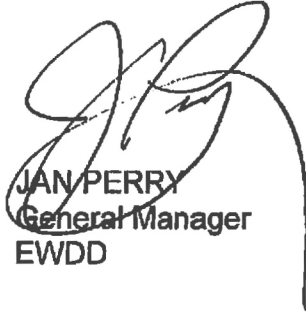
Housing sustainability ultimately cannot be achieved if the participant does not possess the necessary income to maintain housing upon exit from the program. Thus, linking participants to vocational support programs upon enrollment is a vital step in assisting rapid re-housing participants in achieving housing stability in addition to the many psychosocial benefits of regaining employment.

The Los Angeles Housing Services Authority launched the Rapid Re-Housing for Adults and Veterans (RRAV) program on January 1, 2016. The launch of the program coincided with the creation of the City of Los Angeles Comprehensive Homeless Strategy (C.F. 15-1138-S1). The Comprehensive Homeless Strategy provides 64 strategies to address the broad spectrum of needs among the homeless. Strategy 7B addresses the need to expand rapid re-housing in the City of Los Angeles. RRAV is the first Rapid Re-Housing program serving single adults administered by LAHSA since the termination of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) in 2012. RRAV was funded with an allocation of \$10,0000 of City of Los Angeles General Funds with the goal of expanding rapid re-housing city-wide as defined in Strategy 7B. LAHSA awarded funds to service providers, one provider for each of the five (5) Service Planning Areas (SPA) in Los Angeles County that contain tracts of the City of Los Angeles. The providers are as follows: Los Angeles Family Housing in SPA 2, The People Concern (formally LAMP Community) in SPA 4, St. Joseph's Center in SPA 5, HOPICS in SPA 6, and Harbor Interfaith in SPA 8. RRAV programs served over 1,000 participants, with 431 entering permanent housing between January and September 2016.

RRAV has proven to be a successful first step in building capacity for rapid re-housing in the City of Los Angeles. Funding provided to LAHSA by the City of Los Angeles for the 2016-2017 Coordinated Entry System (CES) for Individuals and Youth has enabled LAHSA to further expand rapid re-housing. An additional four providers were funded for a total of 9 providers in 2016-2017, serving participants in SPAS 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8. All five RRAV providers were awarded CES Rapid Re-Housing funds and active RRAV participants were rolled into CES Rapid Re-Housing programs.

Successful expansion of Rapid Re-Housing city-wide is dependent upon creating new and innovative partnerships and leveraging services in a variety of areas. Braiding City funded vocational and rapid re-housing programs will serve as a model for the kinds of innovative partnerships needed to ensure rapid re-housing programs are successful in meeting the needs of participants. The CES Rapid Re-Housing and LA:RISE partnership will provide efficient access to needed services for participants enrolled in both programs.

This LA:RISE expansion pilot program proposes to serve a total of fifty (50) homeless individuals from the current available slots created with the \$2 million FY 16-17 Budget allocation; 25 to be identified in Council District 2 and 25 in Council District 8. Individuals, either currently enrolled in LA:RISE or new participants, will be identified through the social enterprises and will meet the LAHSA eligibility requirements for the Rapid Re-Housing model.



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