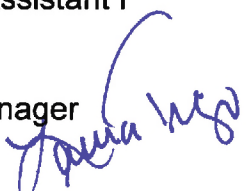


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: April 20, 2017

To: Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

Attn: Erika Pulst, Legislative Assistant I
Office of the City Clerk

From: Laura Trejo, General Manager
Department of Aging 

Subject: **LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AGING RESPONSE TO
PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 BUDGET**

The Mayor's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 for the Los Angeles Department of Aging (LADOA) is responsive to the needs of seniors and operation of the Department in assuring the continued funding for important service programs. The Department is very appreciative of the proposed budget's inclusion of continued baseline funding for senior services that includes nutrition programs; the Echo Park Mini-MPC and the Estelle Van Meter Mini-MPC; Older Workers Employment Program for homeless seniors; and the Evidence Based Health Promotion programs.

The LADOA services support the lowest income, most frail and oldest among the fast growing senior population to maintain independence, improve wellness, and maximize functional capacity and improve overall quality of life. Chronic conditions are the leading cause of death and disability in the US, and treating those with multiple conditions, as is the case with 70% of older adults, costs up to seven times as much as treating those who only have one chronic condition.

In addition to the budget proposals already included, the LADOA is respectfully requesting the Budget & Finance Committee's consideration the following three funding requests:

- General City Purpose (GCP) funds in the amount of \$192,000 previously allocated as gap funding to make up for federal sequestration cuts to Older Americans Act social service programs such as Case Management, Ombudsman program for elder abuse prevention and administrative support.
- The Older Workers Employment Program (OWEP) funding in the amount of \$450,000 was continued for Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018. However, to transition the program from a pilot to a sustainable program, minimum staffing is required. Based on the Department's analysis of minimum need, two positions a Social Worker I and a position upgrade from Senior Management Analyst I to a Senior Management Analyst II are needed to support the Older Workers Employment Program (OWEP). The Department is recommending to use unspent funds in this year's budget to fund the two position authorities requested.

Savings were generated due to notification in December 2016 of the potential elimination of the OWEP program, that necessitated the Department suspend enrollments to ensure minimum impact on older participants. The Department requests that the \$150,000 in savings be re-allocated to the OWEP Program in Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018 to fund the positions and enhance the number of participant slots. The performance metrics from the initial six months of the program demonstrates the effectiveness of this pilot. (see Attachment #1)

- Evidence Based Health Programming was continued, but at a reduced funding level. The Department recommends the restoration of \$83,726 to maintain the funding level at \$848,000. The Evidence Based Health Promotion program provides Multipurpose Senior Center based wellness programs across the City such as physical activity, chronic pain management, and memory retention programs which are proven to improve older adults' health outcomes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (213) 202-5645.

Attachment

cc: Interim City Administrative Officer
Deputy Mayor for Budget and Innovation
Deputy Mayor for City Services



Older Workers Employment Program

- Begun FY 2016-17, the Older Workers Employment Program (OWEP), modeled on the Senior Community Service Employment Program - known as Title V, provides part-time work-based training opportunities at local community service agencies for older adults who have poor employment prospects, are unemployed and homeless. OWEP assists individuals in finding employment opportunities in the community through a variety of supportive services such as personal and job-related counseling, job training, job referral and social supports. OWEP also educates employers about the benefits of hiring older workers.
- Outreach resulted in 65 homeless older adults participating in OWEP. Target was 50.
- Program launched July 5, 2016 with 24 participants in placement of the 38 available slots.
- Due to uncertainty of continued funding, OWEP stopped processing new clients in January.

Client Profile

- Served 65 unique clients
- Age distribution
 - 55-59 38%
 - 60-64 35%
 - 65-69 20%
 - 70-75 3%
- 48% with a disability
- 84% high school or above
- 75% have one or more types of income & public assistance

Pilot Outcomes

- 4 secured employment
- 11 secured permanent housing and 4 approved
- All became eligible for transitional housing
- 11 received supportive services from the Department of Rehabilitation (incl. funding for clothing and transportation)
- 100% received supportive services
- High participant turnover
- Participants require extensive and frequent follow up contact