

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles is in the midst of a homelessness crisis that will require new and innovative solutions to address the diverse needs of our vulnerable residents. Many individuals experiencing homelessness use the emergency department (ED) in hospitals because they cannot easily access adequate medical care. Some of these patients may be experiencing a mental health crisis or issues with substance abuse and require care and attention beyond their temporary stay at the hospital. The Homeless Housing and Recovery Project (HHRP) was started as a partnership between Providence Tarzana Medical Center and Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc (TTC). It has expanded to include Providence's other hospitals. The main goals of the program are to decrease addiction and substance use, while promoting recovery and easing access to mental/behavioral health care and to decrease the frequent use of ED for non-urgent health needs. The program pilot launched in November 2018 and has provided emergency, transitional, and permanent housing placement services and integrated healthcare to approximately 257 patients through outreach at Providence Hospital Emergency Departments.

As part of the HHRP, Patient Navigators are assigned to the emergency department in the hospital to screen patients experiencing homelessness who may be eligible to participate in the program. The patients are assigned to general practitioners and connected to the TTC medical clinics where they continue to receive the care they need after they leave the hospital. The HHRP also includes two homes leased by TTC to house patients participating in the program. One house is for men and another for women. Once a patient is stable they create a monthly budget and housing goals that are reviewed with the Patient Navigator at least every 30 days.

This program has been effective because it provides individuals experiencing homelessness the opportunity to access services when they are most in need. During the first fourteen months of the program, 555 patients have been screened for admission, of which 165 patients have been connected to mental health services, 31 have started outpatient substance use disorder treatment, 136 have obtained emergency housing, 27 have completed residential treatment, 46 have entered transitional housing, and 49 individuals successfully ended their homeless episode and have a permanent address.

In order to continue and expand this program, additional funding will need to be identified. The State of California is issuing the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention block grant to expand or develop local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges. The HHRP is a prime candidate for this grant because it is a newer solution that has been shown to be effective. This funding request will go toward temporary housing services and augmenting the program with an additional home for patients, additional patient navigator that can split time between the homes and the hospital, and the delivery of the care coordination and linked referral services needed by patients who have multiple health and social service needs.

As part of HHRP, the Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc. leverages Medi-Cal and private insurance coverage wherever possible for its services. The cost for the patient navigators inside the emergency departments will be covered by Providence. The total cost of this program will be \$950,000 however, the request from the City, as set forth below, is for \$422,628.

Personnel	
Project Coordinator	\$23,920
Homeless Patient Navigators/Case Managers	\$74,880
Housing Manager	\$35,360
Staff Support (After Hours/Weekend)	\$33,280
Van Driver/House Maintenance	\$33,280
Administrative/Data Assistant	\$17,680
Fringe Benefits	\$37,128
Operating Costs	

JAN 28 2020



Lease Staff Office	\$12,000
Lease/Repair Homes	\$126,000
Emergency Motel Vouchers	\$13,000
Vehicle Lease/Insurance/Repair	\$3,600
Vehicle Maintenance/Gas	\$3,600
Office Supplies	\$1,200
Patient Health Kits/Incentives	\$1,200
Cell Phone and Data Plans	\$2,500
Transitional Housing Furniture (Replacement)	\$4,000
Total	\$422,628

This request falls within the following Proposed Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention funding categories:

- Category 3: Prevention. Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing, because it is a diversion program;
- Category 4: Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Housing, because of the use of patient navigators that provide housing location and navigation services and its use of a shared housing model and motel vouchers; and
- Category 5: Street Strategy, Outreach, Public Health and Hygiene, because it places patients with a safer, healthier place to receive services after leaving the hospital.

Given that the HHRP is a unique mental health and substance abuse program for homeless individuals that leverages non-City funding, in which the City can play a role by providing navigation services and housing, the City should support this program that is also a benefit to Los Angeles as it is strategically based in underserved high-resource communities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council instruct the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst ~~be~~ ~~Instructed~~ to submit to the Homeless Strategy Committee for review a funding request for an amount up to \$450,000 using the State's Homeless, Housing, Assistance and Prevention program grant (City Proposed Categories: 3 Prevention. Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing; 4 Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Housing; and 5 Street Strategy, Outreach, Public Health and Hygiene), to support the Homeless Housing and Recovery Project in partnership with Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc. (TTC) and Providence for twelve months.

PRESENTED BY: 
BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: 

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