

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY COMMITTEES REPORT relative to 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 for Council:

1. ACCEPT the LA:RISE Expansion Pilot Program evaluation results contained in the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) report, attached to the Council file.
2. INSTRUCT the EWDD and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to make enhancements to the LA:RISE Expansion Pilot Program design, resulting from lessons learned and process improvements outlined in this report, to continue with a phase two version of the program for the current program year to serve an additional 50 homeless individuals.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The EWDD reports that there is no additional impact on the City's General Fund. LA:RISE and rapid rehousing services are funded through the approved Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On November 28, 2017, the Economic Development Committee (EDC) considered a November 14, 2017 EWDD report relative to the 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. According to the EWDD, recognizing that unemployment and homelessness go hand in hand, on October 18, 2016, a Motion (Krekorian - Harris-Dawson) was introduced instructing the EWDD and LAHSA to report to Council on creating a pilot program that combines rapid rehousing and transitional social enterprise jobs through the LARISE for individuals who are homeless in the San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles. The Homelessness and Poverty Committee approved the implementation of the pilot through a joint report by EWDD and LAHSA, dated November 4, 2016, and requested an evaluation report back by EWDD and LAHSA.

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 which they are eligible for, 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 vouchers 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 often prevent them from re-entering the mainstream job market. In a vacuum, each of these programs is important, but each only provides half the solution to bringing an individual permanently out of homelessness. Also, the San Fernando Valley has experienced 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.

Pursuant to the adoption of the Mayor's 2016-17 Budget on May 19, 2016, the EWDD received \$2 million in General City Purposes (GCP) funds to deliver workforce development services to homeless individuals through the LA:RISE program. The GCPLA:RISE Rapid Rehousing Pilot funds allowed the EWDD to provide transitional employment, workforce training, education, and job placement services to 275 homeless individuals; including a subset of 50 individuals to be served for purposes of this pilot program between Council District 2 and Council District 8.

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 subsidized 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 progress from transitional subsidized employment, to bridge (unsubsidized) and/or competitive employment in the open labor market. Social enterprises and workforce agencies work together to better prepare individuals both professionally and personally by providing paid work experience and personal supports such as housing, transportation, and legal services. By co-enrolling individuals into WIOA (which provides workforce services using federal funding), LA:RISE is able to leverage funds and work more efficiently. After working in a transitional job at a social enterprise and leveraging training and services from the WorkSource Center, individuals are placed at jobs in the private sector, in public-sector jobs in the City of LA, or in vocational training programs. Upon placement, they work with a retention partner for up to one year, who acts as a safety net in case barriers emerge on their path to self-sufficiency.

After further consideration, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the November 14, 2017 EWDD report and detailed above. Subsequently, on January 17, 2018, the Homelessness and Poverty Committee also considered this matter and after consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, moved to concur with the EDC committee. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER **VOTE**

PRICE: YES

BUSCAINO: YES

HUIZAR: YES



HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY COMMITTEE

MEMBER **VOTE**

HARRIS-DAWSON: YES

RODRIGUEZ: YES

HUIZAR: YES

BONIN: YES

PRICE: YES



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2/5/18

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-