

Motion

Los Angeles placed a record 21,000 homeless individuals and families into housing last year. Despite this fact, the 2019 Point in Time Homeless Count revealed that the total homeless population still grew by 16 percent in the City because of an even greater inflow of people into homelessness. With over one-third of Los Angeles households severely rent burdened, paying 50 percent or more of their household income on housing, many residents are just one unexpected expense away from falling into homelessness. It is important to have strategic resources readily available for an individual's entrypoint into the homeless service system, and to resolve obstacles to maintaining housing to avoid entry into the system all together. Based on the challenges facing the homeless or at-risk population in the 7th Council District, additional resources should be made available to bolster the availability of funds for Problem Solving, the Roommate Housing Subsidy Pilot, and Rapid Re-Housing.

Problem Solving is a tool administered through the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA) that seeks to prevent or quickly resolve homelessness using creative solutions without utilizing dedicated homeless resources. Problem-Solving provides enough assistance (on average \$2,200) to quickly identify and secure a safe place to live, as well as the social and economic support needed to help avoid future experiences of homelessness. LAHSA is building out the infrastructure to expand available training in Problem Solving best practices beyond contracted homeless service providers. This provides a unique opportunity for non-traditional partners in the 7th Council District to get involved in helping solve the crisis. Many individuals will first seek help from the community they know; community organizations, food pantries, hospitals and faith-based organizations that are not traditional Coordinated Entry System (CES) agencies. With a crisis of this scale, providing these non-traditional partners with training and resources broadens the reach of service delivery in the all-hands-on-deck approach required to address a crisis of this magnitude. An allocation of \$150,000 will serve approximately 68 clients.

Addressing the crisis requires adaptability to everyone's unique situation. Through the traditional housing subsidies and vouchers, housing partners or friends together has been a challenge. LAHSA's Roommate Housing Subsidy pilot would create a new category of housing within the service system that enables families, individuals, and youth experiencing homelessness to enter into a shared housing or roommate-based living situation. The Roommate Housing Subsidy is designed to be a viable housing resource for households that need assistance beyond Problem-Solving, yet below the level of assistance provided through Rapid Re-Housing or Permanent Supportive Housing. An allocation of \$400,000 to this pilot will result in approximately 60 roommate based placements.

As a more intensive housing tool, Rapid Re-Housing has proven successful for clients at various acuity levels. There are currently over 100 families in the 7th District who could use Rapid Re-Housing if additional resources were available. Allocating additional funding to expand the number of individual and family clients served by this successful tool is critically important in transitioning people off the street, and out of interim housing, such as emergency shelter or safe parking, and into permanent housing. An allocation of \$1.5M would result in service to approximately 30 individuals and 45 families.

Augmenting the availability of funds for the aforementioned programs would help strategically address the issues facing constituents experiencing homelessness, or on the verge of homelessness in the 7th Council District.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council Instruct the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst to submit to the Homeless Strategy Committee for review a funding request totaling \$2.05M using the State's Homeless, Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program grant for the

following programs in Council District 7: \$150,000 for Problem Solving Fund that is accessible to homeless service providers, including non-traditional partners that are already providing homeless services and outreach, such as community based or faith based organizations, after they receive the appropriate training from LAHSA (City proposed Category 3: Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing); \$400,000 for a Roommate Housing Subsidy fund (City proposed Category 4: Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing); and \$1.5M for a Rapid Rehousing fund that serves both families and individuals (City proposed Category 4: Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing).

PRESENTED BY: 
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SECONDED BY: 

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