

Date: September 3, 2021

To: Mayor and City Council
From: John Jalili, Interim City Manager
Subject: Update on Homelessness Strategies

Introduction

The City of Santa Monica's response to homelessness is guided by a Four Pillar strategy introduced at the [March 26, 2019](#) City Council meeting. The Four Pillars are:

- preventing housed Santa Monicans from becoming homeless and increasing affordable housing opportunities;
- addressing the behavioral health needs of vulnerable residents;
- maintaining equitable access to safe, fun and health open spaces; and
- strengthening regional capacity to address homelessness.

[On February 23, 2021](#), Council received a report on local and regional efforts to address homelessness and identified four priorities with the greatest potential to advance the City's Four Pillar strategy:

- emergency rental assistance;
- a low-acuity crisis response team in the Santa Monica Fire Department;
- a behavioral health triage center; and
- alternate non-congregate shelter.

This report provides an update on these priorities, as well as relevant regional updates. Staff will return to Council before the end of the year to seek guidance and authorization on next steps to advance the City's homelessness strategies.

Council-Identified Priorities

A. Emergency Rental Assistance

In response to COVID-related economic hardships, a variety of rental assistance programs have been made available to Santa Monica residents to help pay rent and utilities arrears.

Santa Monica COVID Emergency Rental Assistance Program (COVID ERAP)

In July 2020, the Community Services Department implemented COVID ERAP using \$2,549,979 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) and General Funds of \$251,535 to provide three months' rent up to \$5,000 to 640 households economically impacted by COVID. A total of 1,106 applications were submitted, with 104 households that did not qualify for or declined assistance, and an additional 362 households that were not offered assistance due to lack of funding (of these 86 received assistance through the LA County program). Funding for program administration came from CDBG and the re-purposing of a County homelessness grant through the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG).

LA County Development Authority Rental Assistance

The LA County Development Authority (LACDA) also administered a rental assistance program that opened in August 2020 to assist applicants throughout the County with a total of \$133 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and County General Funds. At the close of the program, 435 Santa Monica residents were awarded approximately \$3.81 million in assistance through the County program.

State COVID Rental and Utilities Assistance

Congress authorized \$25 billion in federal rent relief funds in December 2020 and an additional \$21.6 billion in May 2021 under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). The State of California has received \$2.6 billion from this first round of federal funding and announced in late June its intention to use an additional \$5.2 billion in federal stimulus funds to pay 100% of back rent owed for lower income Californians, as well as an additional \$2 billion for past due utilities.

On [July 13, 2021](#), Council requested that staff create an enhanced communications campaign to inform renter residents and property owners about the State program. Council subsequently allocated up to \$25,000 in discretionary funds to this project on [July 27, 2021](#). According to the data available on the state dashboard (https://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/dashboard.html) as of August 31, the program has received 1,394 completed applications from Santa Monica households requesting a total of \$22,739,041 in funds, with 725 of these households having been paid \$11,967,185 so far.

The two goals of the City's rental assistance communications campaign are education and support with application completion. Educational efforts focus on multilingual outreach to the most vulnerable residents who may not have access to online information and will consist of information in *Seascape*, postcards, door hangers, flyers, utility bill inserts, and ongoing media outreach. Digital communication via email newsletters, santamonica.gov, social media, CityTV, and text message will also be completed, and information was shared with community partners including Meals on Wheels, Food Pantry Boxes and After School Programs at Virginia Avenue Park, the Library, the Farmer's Market, neighborhood groups, business improvement districts, and other community locations. Of the 1,394 Santa Monica applications, 147 more applications have been completed since the outreach efforts began in August 2021. Outreach will continue until state COVID relief funds are exhausted.

For application support, the City is working with its 311 system to answer questions about the application process and to connect residents with the State's help center and established partner organizations that provide application support. Additionally, the City runs a support clinic at City Hall to provide in-person support with staff/volunteers from City Attorney's Office, Rent Control, and Santa Monica's for Renters' Rights. The clinic is available on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. during the month of September to Santa Monica applicants who have made an appointment by calling 311. The clinic will continue to run until the state funds are depleted and rental applications are no longer accepted.

B. Low-Acuity Crisis Response Team in the Santa Monica Fire Department

The FY2021-22 budget adopted by Council included funding for the Santa Monica Fire Department (SMFD) to pilot a Community Response Unit (CRU). The key purpose of the CRU team is to provide an alternative response to 9-1-1 calls for both housed and unhoused individuals. A standard Paramedic Fire Engine and Ambulance is designed to quickly assess, treat, and transport patients to hospital emergency rooms and then be ready for the next emergency. But when the 9-1-1 call is less urgent and the solution is not necessarily the emergency room, the CRU has the latitude to spend more time on scene with those in need, make connections, and help get them to the right resources to solve their problem. The CRU, composed of two firefighters, will work in collaboration with other City departments, regional agencies, and non-profits to provide linkages to local and regional resources for housing and supportive services. This will allow other first responders and emergency room resources to be freed up for higher acuity emergency calls. SMFD is drafting a department policy to govern the CRU and establish goals and metrics to demonstrate effectiveness.

SMFD has been working with the county Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) to develop policies and procedures in accordance with LEMSAs requirements that will allow CRU to transport non-emergency patients to community-based services instead of emergency rooms. SMFD, in partnership with the Community Services Department and the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD), has developed an 80-hour training curriculum that includes LEMSAs-required content, information on how to connect to local and regional

community services, and policies, processes and procedures related to the City's interdepartmental coordination to address homelessness. CRU personnel began the 80-hour training program on August 30, 2021 and will start responding to calls on September 13, 2021.

C. Behavioral Health Triage Center

Both within the City and the community, stakeholders have expressed the need for greater capacity to address the behavioral health needs of people both housed and unhoused, especially on a 24/7 basis. A facility sited in our community that could be dedicated to serving local needs would provide a valuable resource to support alternative crisis response and improve access to care for vulnerable Santa Monica residents who may face barriers due to lack of insurance or the inability to navigate multiple healthcare systems.

To remove these barriers and make behavioral health care more readily accessible, staff envision updating current models of service delivery to align with national best practices for crisis stabilization centers. This includes a more integrated "no wrong door" approach than the current system that would create seamless care for a range of mental health and substance use disorder issues that are not defined by time limits on care, insurance billing, primary diagnosis, or other bureaucratic constraints.

This vision is aspirational and will require the City to engage with a range of experts to navigate multiple regulatory and licensing requirements, develop creative solutions, and stitch together funding streams of what are currently siloed systems for health, mental health, and substance use disorder treatment. To support this vision, staff have had exploratory conversations with several public and private entities to gauge interest in potential collaborations to advance a local behavioral health triage center. These preliminary discussions are helping to shape staff's road map for navigating this complex project, including identifying regional and national experts that would be valuable partners in the design and implementation.

One of the key partners staff engaged was L.A. County Department of Mental Health (DMH), whose Alternative Crisis Response strategies, adopted by the Board of Supervisors last year, include providing 24/7 mental health support. Recently, DMH contracted with RI International to advance the development of a comprehensive county-wide alternative crisis response system that includes a centralized dispatch system, enhanced crisis response teams, and new crisis stabilization facilities. RI International will be compiling an inventory of potential sites in each supervisorial district, assessing system gaps and developing recommendations for system integration and expansion. City staff has been invited to participate in stakeholder meetings with DMH's Alternative Crisis Response unit to stay abreast of DMH's progress and potentially apply their regional findings and analysis to continue to inform our local approach.

In addition, L.A. County Department of Health Services (DHS) is launching holistic wellness centers for people with intellectual disabilities at the Westside and South LA Regional Centers. These enhanced specialized crisis response services are designed to reduce hospitalizations and disruption of services for clients with intellectual disabilities having a behavioral health crisis. This model of care that integrates mental health, substance use treatment, and physical health under one roof to address all aspects of a person in crisis may be useful in developing a local crisis facility.

Future staff updates will include outcomes from these conversations, and staff may need to return to Council to formalize any new partnerships to advance this priority.

D. Alternative Non-congregate Shelter

To address the growing crisis of unsheltered homelessness nationally in ways that support pandemic-related public health and safety, many communities have been piloting temporary alternatives to congregate shelters. Unlike congregate shelters, in which everyone is located in a shared space, non-congregate shelters use a variety of models to provide units for one or two individuals that offers more privacy. One example

includes “villages” of free-standing shed-type structures. Another strategy is to allow legal camping in sanctioned sites.

These alternative models being implemented in many communities have thus far proven to be more costly than traditional congregate shelters. In addition to the one-time costs associated with purchasing individual temporary structures, there can be extensive site-prep necessary to level a site and provide electricity, sanitation, and other utilities. Once established, there are ongoing operational costs for renting shower/restroom trailers, office trailers for on-site staff, security, utilities, prepared meals, and other maintenance costs. Publicly available documents provide a basis for estimating one-time and operating costs:

- One-time capital costs: Minimum of \$500,000 to over \$1 million depending on site readiness and number of units purchased.
 - Units cost approximately \$5,000 - \$10,000 each depending on size, vendor, and type of shelter.
 - Unit costs do not include mattresses, A/C or heating units, smoke detectors, tax, delivery, or assembly.
 - Minimum cost estimate assumes site is already physically prepped and utilities are installed and ready for unit delivery and set-up.
 - Installing utilities and data/communications would be an estimated \$100,000 and take up to 12 months to complete.

- Ongoing operating costs: Approximately \$20,000 – \$25,000 annually per bed for double occupancy or \$40,000 - \$45,000 annually per single-unit occupancy, which is recommended for highly vulnerable individuals. (\$1.2 million/year = 30 units).
 - Riverside - 30 units (60 beds): \$1.2 million/year
 - Redondo - 15 units (30 beds) (one unit is for security): \$708,000 for 13 months

An interdepartmental team completed a preliminary review of existing City properties that had previously been identified for possible reuse. All sites had existing buildings that would require prohibitively extensive rehab or demolition to be usable for non-

congregate homeless sheltering. One City-owned surface parking lot in downtown (1326 and 1334 5th Street) is currently site-ready with utilities and internet access that could potentially hold 20-30 units as well as trailers for services, dining and hygiene, which would reduce implementation start-up capital costs. However, half of this site (Lot 27) is in the process of being licensed to EVgo Services LLC to operate an EV charging station for an initial five-year term, as part of the agreement awarded by Council on [September 10, 2019](#). The site is adjacent to other lots currently being used for outdoor exercise and other COVID-related modified activities supporting local businesses.

A portion of the site could potentially be utilized for a smaller shelter program; however, the cost per unit to operate would be significantly higher due to certain fixed costs and minimum staffing requirements. Start-up costs for 30 units would be at minimum approximately \$800,000, if the site does not require any additional physical improvements such as leveling. On-going operating costs would be approximately \$1.2 million per year for 30 units of single occupancy beds (\$40,000/bed), which would be significantly higher than existing congregate shelters. By comparison, SAMOSHEL operates 70 beds on an annual budget of approximately \$1.3 million per year or \$19,000 per year per bed.

E. Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

To address the immediate need to make shelter beds available for unhoused individuals, staff have put in motion an alternative plan that will require no new General Fund allocation and will result in a nearly 100% turnover of existing shelter capacity, thereby making those beds available for those in need in local parks and public spaces. Under the American Rescue Plan, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated 104 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) to the City of Santa Monica to be issued to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The City is prioritizing its allocation of EHVs to exit people in local shelter programs into permanent housing with supportive services as its first tier, with any remaining vouchers available for unsheltered individuals referred by City-funded street teams. This allocation is sufficient to provide a housing voucher to every eligible person currently in local shelters. As

shelter beds become available, City staff are working with SMPD, SMFD and the City's multidisciplinary street outreach teams to compile a list of people currently in parks and other public spaces that are eligible for federal subsidies that can be referred either directly to permanent housing via EHV or referred to an available shelter.

Following Council authorization on [July 27, 2021](#), the City executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), as required by HUD, that outlines the local prioritized populations for Santa Monica's EHV program. LAHSA will use this priority list to identify eligible people referred from local programs who are on the County Coordinated Entry System (CES) housing waitlist.

The community will also be given an opportunity to play a significant role in implementing the EHV program by expanding the number of available units by outreaching to property owners for available units, donating items to furnish the apartments, and helping with move-in day tasks. Staff convened a workgroup composed of local partners to coordinate this effort, making the EHV program a unique opportunity to engage the whole community in a tangible, positive activity that will house over a hundred vulnerable individuals while opening up shelter capacity for dozens more unsheltered people currently living in public spaces.

Regional Updates

A. Expanded Shelter Capacity on the Westside

In February 2021, the City of LA opened the A Bridge Home Pacific Sunset Shelter, located on a former Metro bus lot in Venice. The shelter is one of the largest year-round shelters on the Westside, providing 100 beds for homeless adults and 54 beds for transitional age youth. Increasing the stock of interim housing in Venice may help

reduce some of the regional reliance on Santa Monica-based programs and free up the limited number of beds available in Santa Monica.

B. State Eviction Moratorium Extension

On June 28, Gov. Newsom approved the passage of AB 832, extending the statewide eviction moratorium until October 1, 2021 and clearing rent arrears and past due utility payments for income-qualified tenants who are unable to pay these costs due to COVID-related economic hardship. AB 832 also ensures that landlords can recoup unpaid rent even if their tenants have vacated the unit. The extension of the moratorium will help prevent households from falling into homelessness as they work toward recovering from the pandemic.

C. Increased Measure H Funds

The economic impact of the pandemic significantly reduced the projected amount of Measure H sales tax revenue that exclusively funds county-wide programs that address homelessness. However, funding from the American Rescue Plan and state relief funds allowed the LA County Board of Supervisors to approve a \$527 million budget for the LA County Homeless Initiative in FY2021-22, which includes increased funding for emergency shelters, supportive services, and rental subsidies. These additional resources will create new opportunities for County partnerships to expand local and regional interim housing and permanent supportive housing options, such as the potential partnership with DHS to support EHV voucher participants.

D. Regional Impact of Homelessness on Venice Boardwalk

LA County Sheriff Alex Villanueva publicly stated that he would clear the encampments on the Venice Beach Boardwalk by July 4, 2021. Without a robust, coordinated effort to provide a permanent housing destination, the Sheriff's approach could result in the displacement of people experiencing homelessness. Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin approached the situation by launching the Venice Beach Encampment to Homes initiative, which systematically provides outreach to sections of the boardwalk, offering temporary and permanent housing options, as well as support to help individuals

dismantle their encampments. As of the end of July, these outreach efforts have resulted in most of the Venice Boardwalk encampments being cleared, with 200 individuals reportedly being offered placements in permanent, temporary, or congregate housing arrangements.

The City of Santa Monica has seen an increase in quality-of-life issues on the beach and surrounding areas, likely due to the actions taken by the LA County Sheriff and City of LA. In response, the SMPD Homeless Liaison Program (HLP) Team conducted daily livability details between July 9 and the end of August that had officers engaging people sleeping on the beach. In the last three weeks, the HLP Team observed a significant reduction in quality-of-life issues on the beach. SMPD is still encountering individuals experiencing homelessness each day who are new to Santa Monica. SMPD is collaborating with the Housing and Human Services Division, City Attorney's Office (CAO), and DMH to address the needs of those contacted. City staff are coordinating with St. Joseph Center to ensure that Venice boardwalk residents identified in Santa Monica are re-directed to housing resources provided by LA City.

E. L.A. Alliance for Human Rights v. City of Los Angeles (Judge Carter)

The City and County of Los Angeles have appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn Judge Carter's injunction, which ordered LA City and County officials to house unsheltered residents of Skid Row by October 2021. LA City and County were granted a temporary pause on the deadline set forth by Judge Carter, but the authority of the court to intervene in local efforts to address homelessness is yet to be determined. Because the injunction would effectively require re-prioritizing county-wide shelter and permanent housing to support Skid Row residents, City staff will continue following the case to assess the impact on local and regional housing resources and systems.

F. LA City Camping Ordinance

On July 28, 2021, the Los Angeles City Council adopted an ordinance which bans sitting, sleeping or storing items around parks, schools, daycare centers, homeless shelters, and other similar locations. It will also prohibit encampments that block

sidewalk access, in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. LA City Council will need to vote to initiate enforcement of encampments, on a case-by-case basis. Before an encampment is cleared, LAHSA outreach teams will work to connect individuals to housing and services. The implementation of this ordinance will put pressure on limited regional housing and outreach services to clear people living in encampments and may reduce the availability of these regional services for the broader community.

G. LA County Blue Ribbon Committee on Homelessness

On July 27, 2021, the LA County Board of Supervisors passed a motion to create a Blue Ribbon Committee on Homelessness (BRCH), directed to “research and analyze various homelessness governance reports, studying models from across the nation and providing feedback to the Board regarding the most relevant and effective models, with the intention of implementing reform to help solve the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles County...”. Recommendations for improved governance should incorporate the diverse needs of the 88 cities and unincorporated communities of the County, as well as the legal and legislative challenges to effective homelessness policy. The recommendations should also include ways for cities, Councils of Government or regional representatives to be better incorporated into the governance structure for addressing homelessness. The committee will be comprised of 12 representatives nominated by the LA City Mayor and Council President, LA County Supervisors, Councils of Government, and the Contract Cities Association.

Local Collaborative Effort

A. Homelessness Resource Coordination Meetings

In April 2021, Interim City Manager Lane Dilg launched a monthly meeting with representatives from the business sector, private and public hospitals, nonprofit service agencies, City departments, and offices of elected officials to address homelessness locally. Topics covered include identifying available local and regional resources that can be aligned to advance Council priorities. The group formed a working group to coordinate community support for people moving into supportive housing through the EHV program through in-kind donations of furniture and home goods, as well as

volunteers to conduct outreach to property owners with available units. This working group will provide a system for engaging broader stakeholder participation around specific projects when volunteers and in-kind donations are needed.

B. Criminal Justice Diversion Updates

The criminal justice system continues to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Los Angeles Superior Court Presiding Judge Eric Taylor continues to issue supplemental orders extending the deadlines for misdemeanor and felony trials. There continues to be a Los Angeles County zero bail or low bail order for all misdemeanor defendants with very few exceptions which results in most misdemeanor defendants being issued citations in the field, with a promise to appear at a future court date that can be 60-90 days after the incident. Under new State and County guidelines, the penalties for almost all these offenses do not result in jail time and probation is limited to a year. These changes alter the effectiveness of long-held City strategies that relied on coordination and partnership with SMPD to provide the motivation that criminal enforcement has on managing disruptive behavior.

The City Attorney's Office, in partnership with the Police and Community Services Departments, continue to host People Outreach Providers (POP) citation clearing clinics. The goal is to connect people who have recently received citations for camping in public, sleeping in a doorway, and other quality of life crimes to service providers that can address their needs, providing outreach and services in lieu of a criminal case filing. The City collaborated with regional service providers Alcott Center, Chrysalis, CLARE|Matrix, SHARE! Collaborative Housing, The People Concern, and West Coast Care to provide much-needed assistance to those experiencing homelessness. The next POP clinic will be in September.

The CAO and SMPD are also working with the LA County Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative (ATI) to implement a pre-trial diversion program that would allow arresting officers to screen suspects for eligibility to participate in this program. If eligible, individuals who have been arrested could choose to meet with a representative from a

County-funded provider, Exodus Recovery, Inc., to assess their immediate needs, which could range from mental health assessments, housing assistance, and substance abuse treatment. If interested, the individual will be transported by Exodus to a County-funded program. If the participant successfully engages in the program for 90 days, criminal charges will not be filed. The program is projected to begin in mid-September, contingent on final logistical coordination with SMPD and the County.

C. DMH Therapeutic Van

In line with calls for public safety reform, and on the recommendation of the community's Public Safety Reform Advisory Committee, the City, in partnership with DMH, will launch an alternative dispatch pilot for those experiencing a mental health crisis. A therapeutic van, available 24/7 and operated by a Psychiatric Mobile Response Team, will be deployed to de-escalate mental health crises occurring on the streets, provide services, and transport a person to the hospital if needed. This model offers a safer, more dignified response than criminalization, expedites access to vital services and case management, and frees up first responders to focus on other community safety priorities. The vans are expected to be available to respond in early October.

D. Affordable Housing Developments

The Santa Monica Housing Authority has several affordable housing plans in various stages of development:

- **1318 Fourth Street:** The City is currently working towards the redevelopment of Parking Structure 3 (PS3), which would include supportive housing. In August 2019, the City issued a Request for Proposals for the redevelopment of Parking Structure 3. Due to budget cuts and the COVID-19 stay at home orders, the selection of an affordable housing team has been delayed. However, due to recent budget restoration of one Housing staff member, staff anticipates returning to City Council by the end of the calendar year with a recommendation regarding the selection of a development team. Based upon the proposals submitted, the 100% affordable housing project is anticipated to create 100-150 affordable residences, including at least 50 supportive housing residences targeted to persons experience homelessness.
- **1413 Michigan Avenue** is proposed to include 58 new apartments, with 57 apartments for households who are experiencing homelessness and one

manager's residence. The City is providing a construction/permanent loan of \$11,742,234 and the development is currently awaiting an award from the State of California Low Income Housing Tax Credit Allocation Committee on its funding application. Developer: EAH Housing, Inc (EAH).

- **1342 Berkeley** will create thirteen one-bedroom affordable residences, with eight apartments targeted to vulnerable young adults (age 18-24) who are or are at risk of experiencing unstable housing circumstances or homelessness (commonly referred to as Transition Age Youth or TAY). The remaining apartments are reserved for the general low-income population. The development has leveraged an additional \$2.9 million for construction from new funding sources including Los Angeles County Innovation Challenge funds, Los Angeles County Development Authority, Department of Mental Health Housing Program funds, United Way Home for Good funds, and a California Community Foundation grant. The City provided a predevelopment loan of \$467,735 and anticipate a construction/permanent loan application during this fiscal year. Developer: Community Corporation of Santa Monica (CCSM).

Potential New Funding Sources

A. HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP)

This federal program provides funding to local jurisdictions to make targeted investments in housing and other assistance to people experiencing homelessness. Santa Monica will receive a one-time allocation of \$2.2 million. Staff will be attending a series of webinars to receive guidance on using these funds from HUD over the next few months. Staff will return to Council with recommendations for utilizing these funds before the end of the calendar year.

B. State Budget for Homelessness

The recently approved state budget will provide \$12 billion over the next two years for programs addressing homelessness. The funding package includes \$2 billion going directly to counties, continuums of care, and the 13 largest cities; \$5.8 billion to create tens of thousands of new housing units; and \$3.9 billion for mental health services. This is the largest state investment in history that targets homelessness, and it is expected to expand existing local resources as well as fund new regional resources. Santa Monica will not receive a direct allocation; therefore, staff will continue to monitor the roll-out of

these funds and evaluate opportunities to apply for funding through the County and other state and regional entities.

C. Westside Cities Council of Governments City Planning Grants (Measure H)

The next round of funding for this grant program will be available in January 2022. Funding in the amount of \$1.3 million will flow through the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) to the Cities of Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Culver City, and West Hollywood. Staff continues to work closely with WSCCOG and the other cities to develop a strategic plan to use these funds most effectively, whether for a shared regional project or as equal allocations to each jurisdiction.

D. Federal Funds for Affordable Housing (Parking Structure 3)

In April 2021, Congressman Ted Lieu selected the City's proposal for the conversion of Parking Structure 3 to affordable housing as one of his ten Community Project Funding requests for FY2022. In July, the City was notified that the project was approved for \$2 million by the House Appropriations Committee and included in the FY2022 Transportation – HUD Appropriations bill. The final budget approvals are expected in December and are anticipated to include the City's approved earmark request. Community Services has restored a Senior Development Analyst position to move this project forward.

The influx of federal and state assistance coming to the LA County region to address homelessness offers opportunities for the City Council and community to advocate with regional leadership to ensure smart investments and long-term solutions. Regional resources should be allocated to long-standing priorities such as the development of a permanent year-round shelter at the West LA Armory, increasing access to behavioral healthcare for all, and exploring new opportunities to expand both interim and permanent supportive housing on the Westside.

Next Steps

Staff will return to Council for additional guidance and authorizations needed to accept and/or apply for potential new funding that could be allocated to priorities addressing homelessness. Future Council actions needed may include:

1. Council action for administrative requirements

- Acceptance of Los Angeles County Planning Grant via Westside Cities Council of Governments and guidance on use of these funds.
- Approval of updates to Housing Authority Administrative Plan in accordance with EHV regulations.
- Authorization to apply for and/or accept state homelessness funding via LAHSA or LA County.

2. Council guidance for the use of funds

- Guidance from Council regarding the scope of work for the Request for Proposals to utilize the \$250,000 allocated from the City's federal relief funds at the April 13, 2021 meeting as seed funding to further explore feasibility of Council-identified priorities, specifically the behavioral health triage center and alternative non-congregate shelter options.
- The implementation of the EHV program to free-up local shelter capacity, as well as regional efforts to expand shelter capacity county-wide, may preclude the need for significant local investment in additional shelter beds. These factors will be considered and included in the recommendations when staff returns to Council.
- Guidance on use of HOME ARP funding and approval of updated Community Development Block Grant Action Plan to incorporate these funds into the Plan.

3. Council approval to add capacity to support implementation of new projects using state/federal funding

- Requests for staffing enhancements needed to implement new projects.
- Approval of awards to sub-contractors and/or consultants to carry out Council-approved projects.

4. Council discussion and approval of recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness

- On [August 24, 2021](#), City Council voted to form a 3-member Ad Hoc Committee to “study and make recommendations for future strategic investments that would advance the City’s Four Pillar Strategy to Address Homelessness. “
- The Ad Hoc is anticipated to present findings to the Council in the Spring n 2022 in conjunction with the results of the 2022 Homeless Count.

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