



Council Agenda Report

Item 6m

Department: Community Development
Cost Center: 4001
For Agenda of: 7/20/2021
Placement: Consent

FROM: Michael Codron, Community Development Director
Prepared By: Kelsey Nocket, Homelessness Response Manager

SUBJECT: MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM (CAT) MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN RFP 2021

RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize the issuance of Request for Proposals for contracting services of a Mental Health Clinician for a second Mental Health Community Action Team; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the contractor that best responds to the RFP in terms of qualifications, cost, and approach to program implementation.

DISCUSSION

Background

In September of 2018, the City of San Luis Obispo established its first Mental Health Community Action Team (CAT) in partnership with the County of San Luis Obispo and local community-based organizations. The purpose of the CAT is to aid law enforcement officers working for the City of San Luis Obispo in handling calls for service involving persons suffering from a potential mental health crisis. CAT consists of co-deployed Mental Health Clinicians and Police personnel, who serve as primary and secondary responders on calls for services involving persons suffering from a potential mental health crisis.

Based on the success of this program, the City of San Luis Obispo is seeking bids from a qualified contractor to fulfill the Mental Health Clinician component of a second CAT. The Mental Health Clinician will be responsible for providing in person mental health services including assessments, case management, rehabilitation services, crisis management, and coordination with/referral to other service providers. The Mental Health Clinician will need to deliver several therapeutic techniques to homeless, transient, and other high-risk clients who have severe mental health and/or substance abuse issues. This is a physically and mentally demanding role that requires assessments and services to be administered in the field during response calls through emergency dispatch or as identified by on-site observation during regular patrol duties.

CONCURRENCE

Consistent with several of the tasks associated with the City's adopted 2021-23 Major City Goal focused on Housing and Homelessness this work effort represents a program that could be piloted and implemented regionally in other cities and unincorporated areas. The draft Request for Proposals (RFP) incorporates comments provided by the County of San Luis Obispo Health Agency Behavioral Health Administrator to ensure streamlined service provision and enable easy adoption by the County should they decide to fund the City's program at a later date consistent with their mission and funding resources in support of community social services and health.

The Police Chief has reviewed report and concurs with staff's recommendation.

POLICY

Major City Goals – Housing and Homelessness

Strategy 3.9 - Community Action Team (CAT) and Downtown Bike Team Resources

- Expand the current Community Action Team by adding an additional social worker position and continue to provide public safety services by utilizing the Community Action Team; includes two officers and a social worker. Continue to provide public safety services by utilizing the downtown bike team.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The issuance of an RFP for contractor services is not a project under CEQA, and therefore, no environmental review is required.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: Yes

Budget Year: 2021-2022

Funding Identified: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance	Annual Ongoing Cost
General Fund	\$125,188	\$125,188	\$0	\$116,188
State				
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$125,188	\$125,188	\$0	\$116,188

The cost of expanding CAT with another mental health worker was included in the City Council's approval of the 2021-23 Financial Plan in support of the Housing and Homelessness Major City Goal. The appropriated budget for 2021-22 is \$118,688 for the position and \$6,500 in one-time funding for the needed infrastructure (2021-23 Financial Plan – page 237). The Financial Plan outlines the long-term commitment to the program with an ongoing impact to the operating budget and a second-year allocation of \$116,188.

ALTERNATIVES

1. ***Provide direction regarding an amended RFP and continue authorization of the RFP to a date uncertain.*** This alternative is recommended if the City Council would like to review and consider major revisions to the RFP.
2. ***Provide direction regarding an amended RFP and authorize the RFP based on finalization and approval by the Community Development Director.*** This alternative is recommended if the Council provides direction resulting in minor revisions of the RFP.

ATTACHMENTS

A – Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) CAT Mental Health Clinician