



Department: Community Development
Cost Center: 4008
For Agenda of: 4/16/2024
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Timmi Tway, Community Development Director
Prepared By: Daisy Wiberg, Homelessness Response Manager

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FY 2023-24
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY OUTREACH SERVICES FUNDING
OPPORTUNITY

RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize staff to submit a funding application to San Luis Obispo County's Adult and Homeless Services Division for Outreach Services funding opportunity in an amount not to exceed \$100,000; and
2. Adopt a Draft Resolution entitled, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, authorizing Funding Application for San Luis Obispo County Outreach Services Funding Opportunity in a total amount not to exceed \$100,000 and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related grant documents," approving the City's application for the San Luis Obispo County Outreach Services funding opportunity; and
3. If the funding opportunity is awarded, authorize the City Manager to execute grant related documents and authorize the Finance Director to make the necessary budget adjustments and appropriations upon the award of funding.

POLICY CONTEXT

The recommended actions are in alignment with the City of San Luis Obispo's Major City Goal for Housing and Homelessness, which directs staff to collaborate with local non-profit partners, non-governmental agencies, the county, the state, and the federal government to advocate for increased funding and implementation of comprehensive and effective strategies to prevent and reduce homelessness.

Additionally, the City's Homelessness Response Strategic Plan¹ includes key components for Regional Collaboration and Engagement and Funding Opportunities that directly support the recommended actions. The Regional Collaboration component prioritizes collaborating with the County's Homeless Services team to establish and support regional priorities and implement strategies in alignment with shared regional goals, while the Funding Opportunities component prioritizes strategically applying for

¹ [City of San Luis Obispo's Homelessness Response Strategic Plan](#)

funding opportunities for homelessness response in coordination with the County and non-profit partners to secure funding that may become available through Federal, State, and other sources.

The recommended actions are also consistent with the City of San Luis Obispo's Financial Management Manual, Section 740 – Grant Management Policy. The policy states that Council must approve all grant applications in excess of \$5,000 and delegate receipt and contract execution to the City Manager.

DISCUSSION

Background

San Luis Obispo County's Adult and Homeless Services Division released a FY 2023-24 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on February 29, 2024, to fund homeless outreach services. Requested funds must be expended by June 30, 2024, and must supplement and not supplant existing funding. Despite this quick turnaround, staff has collaborated to determine how potential funds could be used in ways that are most beneficial to the community in the next several months. Awards will not exceed \$100,000 per agency awarded, and the total number of awards depends on the number of proposals. Funds must be used to provide outreach to those experiencing homelessness in the community or who are at risk of homelessness in the community. Examples of funding uses include, but are not limited to:

1. Purchase of outreach materials
2. Design of outreach locations to make them more trauma informed and accessible
3. Provision of training to outreach staff or purchase of training materials
4. Provision of direct services to unsheltered individuals or individuals at risk of homelessness to encourage engagement with outreach staff
5. Outreach events
6. Supportive services to reunify unsheltered individuals with their family or secure permanent housing in the community
7. Adding capacity for outreach staff including limited term positions or paying for overtime for existing staff to extend their outreach capacity.

City staff from the Community Development, Police, and Fire Departments are proposing a funding request for \$100,000 to be used for the purchase of outreach materials, provision of training to outreach staff, a resource fair and outreach event, supportive services to reunify individuals with family or agencies, and adding capacity for outreach staff.

Item 6g

The City's proposal includes the following funding requests:

FUNDING CATEGORY	FUNDING REQUEST	FUNDING AMOUNT
Outreach Materials (<i>Communications</i>)	Printing Costs for 1,250 Homeless Resources Pocket Guides for continued distribution to unhoused community members, service providers, businesses, and community members.	\$1,500
Training (<i>Pilot Programs</i>)	De-Escalation Training opportunity for City staff and service providers; Development of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) curriculum, including purchasing training materials.	\$8,000
Outreach Events (<i>Regional Collaboration & Engagement</i>)	Homelessness Response Resource Fair for community members experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, to be hosted in collaboration with Regional Partners in June 2024. Budget includes funding for refreshments, printing resource materials, and event supply costs.	\$5,000
Supportive Services (<i>Pilot Programs</i>)	Family and/or agency reunification funding for the Fire Department's Mobile Crisis Unit (MCU) to provide bus/train/plane tickets, meals, gas, and treatment programing for reunification efforts.	\$4,000
Outreach Staff Capacity* (<i>Pilot Programs</i>)	Supplemental funding for a Licensed Psych Tech (LPT) to be paired with the Fire Department's MCU team, via contract with the County's Behavioral Health Department. Monthly cost estimate of \$10,500 for three months (April-June 2024).	\$31,500
Outreach Staff Capacity* (<i>Pilot Programs</i>)	Supplemental funding for a Licensed Psych Tech (LPT) to be paired with the Police Department's CAT team, via contract with the County's Behavioral Health Department. Monthly cost estimate of \$10,500 for three months (April-June 2024).	\$31,500
Outreach Staff Capacity (<i>Pilot Programs</i>)	Contract Community Resource Coordinator (CRO) to be paired with the Police Department's CAT team, via contract service, to provide outreach services to unhoused community. Monthly cost estimate of \$9,250 for two months (May & June 2024).	\$18,500
Total		\$100,000

*Alternatively, depending on availability of Licensed Psych Techs from the County Behavioral Health Department, funding may be allocated for additional outreach and supportive services facilitated through the CAT and MCU teams and partner agencies including hotel vouchers, no-cook food bags, and additional supportive services.

Given the cross-departmental structure of the City's Homelessness Response efforts, the City's proposal includes funding for the Community Development, Police, and Fire Departments to supplement existing programs, projects, and efforts to prevent and address homelessness.

The proposed activities outlined in the funding request table align with the following objectives included in the City's Homelessness Response Strategic Plan:

1. Regional Collaboration & Engagement –
 - a. Work collaboratively with the County's Homeless Services team to establish and support regional priorities and implement strategies in alignment with shared regional goals.
 - b. Strengthen relationships with key stakeholders to create alignment, accountability, and opportunities for resource sharing and collaboration.
 - c. Coordinate regional encampment and street outreach and cleanup efforts with the County, service providers, and regional partners.
2. Communications –
 - a. Increase homelessness response communications.
 - b. Communicate consistent homelessness response messaging across region.
3. Pilot Programs –
 - a. Continue development of City-operated pilot programs and share best practices with County for potential regional implementation if proven effective.
4. Funding Opportunities –
 - a. Strategically apply for funding opportunities for homelessness response in coordination with the County and non-profit partners to secure funding that may become available through Federal and State, and other sources.
 - b. Engage in efforts to leverage resources to develop a more robust regional service delivery system.

Public Engagement

This item is on the agenda for the April 16, 2024, City Council meeting and will follow all required postings and notifications. The public may have an opportunity to comment on this item at or before the meeting.

CONCURRENCE

The Homelessness Response Steering Committee, including the Police Chief and Fire Chief, are in support of the application.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to the recommended action in this report because the action does not constitute a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: No
Funding Identified: Yes

Budget Year: 2023-24

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available*	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance	Annual Ongoing Cost
General Fund				
State				
Federal				
Fees				
Other: SLO County Adult and Homeless Services	\$100,000			
Total	\$100,000	\$	\$	\$

*Total Budget Available amount assumes award of full funding request.

City matching funds are not required for this funding opportunity.

ALTERNATIVES

Deny the recommendation. The Council may deny staff's recommendation to apply for the SLO County Outreach Services funding opportunity, based on findings of inconsistency with City policies and funding priorities. This alternative is not recommended as the funding will provide needed resources to support the City's Homelessness Response programs and priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

- A - Draft Resolution Authorizing Application for SLO County Outreach Services Funding Opportunity
- B - Draft Application for FY23-24 SLO County Outreach Services Funding Opportunity