



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: May 4, 2021

TO: Jim Throop, City Manager

FROM: Chanel Ovalle, Community Development Program Manager

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6406(21) Adopting a Countywide Phase II Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council:

- 1) Receive a presentation by Santa Barbara County (County) on homelessness in the County, which includes a report on the Phase II Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness (Plan), identifies key strategies and priority areas to address homelessness, and demonstrates regional coordination to assist the County's efforts to obtain program funding;
- 2) Provide direction to:
 - (a) Determine the adoption of the Plan does not constitute approval of a "project" subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), finding that the project is an administrative action of government which will not, in itself, result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment; and
 - (b) Adopt Resolution 6406(21) adopting the Plan (attached); or
- 3) Provide alternate direction.

Background:

The Phase I Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 18, 2019. This report identified five key strategies to address homelessness:

- (i) Increase access to safe, affordable housing;
- (ii) Use best practices to deliver tailored support services;

- (iii) Build a collective action plan;
- (iv) Strengthen support system to obtain and maintain housing; and
- (v) Build provider capacity to address complex needs.

The Phase II Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness development process began in October 2019, concluded in January 2021, and included community outreach and input from over 400 community members, and key stakeholder groups, with feedback during the Consolidated Plan process. County staff gathered data on funding amounts for housing and services dedicated to homelessness in the County for a 12-month period and analyzed recent state and federal investments to address homelessness. The Plan includes the Phase I Plan's five key strategies to address homelessness, priorities, with greater elaboration on implementation. The Plan describes regional system level goals, focusing on priority populations, new resources, and performance, such as:

- (i) Prioritize ending/dramatically reducing homelessness for specific populations;
- (ii) Increase housing inventory dedicated to homelessness and affordability;
- (iii) Create a culture of diversion and prevention across the homeless response system;
- (iv) Improve overall homeless system performance; and
- (v) Achieve Continuum of Care strategies and benchmarks approved in 2019.

The housing and shelter needs identified were based on a gaps analysis conducted by the County's contractor, LeSar Development, led by an experienced senior staff of proven industry professionals. The gaps analysis included system modeling using data from the County's Homeless Management Information System, the Coordinated Entry System, Point in Time Count, and other data sources. These critical steps assisted both the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the County to identify resource gaps, key eligible activities and uses, and meet threshold criteria for the CoC and County to apply for federal and state funds.

Discussion:

The Plan includes a detailed Implementation Work Plan that outlines specific strategies and actions, suggested community partners, timelines for accomplishing specific actions, and potential resources to be used. The Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on February 23, 2021. In order to encourage community awareness and community leader commitment to addressing homelessness in the region, County staff is presenting the Plan to City Councils and other key jurisdictional leadership bodies for adoption.

Fiscal Impact:

The adoption of the Plan will enhance the City's efforts to end homelessness and may require City resources such as additional administration by staff, implementation or creation of programs and supportive housing.

The City's current efforts for homelessness is provided through resources of the Community Development Block Grant, HOME and General Funds.

Conclusion:

The County is presenting the Plan to City Councils of Goleta, Buellton, Solvang, and Santa Maria for adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

Chanel Ovalle, Community Development Program Manager

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:

Christie Alarcon, Community Development Department Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Jim Throop, City Manager

Attachment: Resolution No. 6406(21)