

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW:

In recognition of the need to more fully engage all cities in the Los Angeles County movement to prevent and combat homelessness, the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (HI) provided cities with the opportunity to apply for planning grants to create Homelessness Action Plans that align with the County's comprehensive action plan.

CHALLENGE:

Homelessness is the most serious humanitarian crisis confronting the Los Angeles County region, demanding a focused, urgent, coordinated response from the County, cities, and community partners. Coordinated efforts to address homelessness have not always existed between cities and the County. With Measure H, a special ¼ cent sales tax legally dedicated to preventing and combating homelessness, the County has an unprecedented \$355 million per year to fund a coordinated set of countywide strategies. Cities have a critical role to play in ensuring that these strategies are maximally effective by taking complementary actions in areas such as land use, housing, and law enforcement.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTION:

Cities have played a vital role since the inception of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative in 2015, including participation in the development of the strategies to prevent and combat homelessness. In recognition of the pivotal role of cities, on June 13, 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors allocated \$2,000,000 in one-time funding to support coordination of city efforts by regional Councils of Government and planning efforts by cities in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care. The Homeless Initiative worked with United Way of Greater Los Angeles (UWGLA) to create and administer a Request for Proposals (RFP) for planning grants for cities

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to create city-specific Plans to Address and Combat Homelessness. These plans aim to assess challenges and opportunities (existing and future) and develop a road map for the city's participation in preventing and combating homelessness locally and regionally. Forty-seven cities applied for and received planning grants. The HI provided cities with a comprehensive list of Measure H strategies with which they can coordinate and align, and a series of Technical Assistance Sessions to help cities develop their plans.

ORIGINALITY:

True coordination and collaboration between the County and individual cities is critical to preventing and combating homelessness, and enriching this partnership through planning grants is unprecedented. The interest among cities, as exemplified by 47 cities applying for this grant, demonstrates the high level of awareness and engagement around this issue. By working together on a regional approach, cities can be more proactive and share resources to minimize movement from city to city by people experiencing homelessness, as connections to resources will be more readily available wherever a person is experiencing homelessness.

COST EFFECTIVENESS:

The City Planning Grants provided a modest amount of money to cities, ranging from \$30,000 to \$70,000 depending on each city's homeless count, but require a comprehensive assessment of each city's available resources and a plan with actions the city will take to complement the strategies funded by the County. By asking cities to identify how they can coordinate with and enhance existing HI efforts, services will be more integrated and less duplicated, and opportunities to leverage resources regionally will be expanded.

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RESULTS:

City plans are due on June 30, 2018, and we anticipate that cities will begin implementing their plans immediately. In August 2018, the Board of Supervisors will consider the allocation of Measure H funding to support cities in the implementation of their homelessness plans.

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