



Agenda Item B.1
DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM
Meeting Date: December 7, 2021

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Jaime A. Valdez, Neighborhood Services Director

CONTACT: Shanna Dawson, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County Encampment Resolution Funding Request to the State of California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a Letter of Intent to join Santa Barbara County's Encampment Resolution Funding Request to the State of California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council.

BACKGROUND:

The desire for a regional approach to address homeless encampments along the Highway 101/Union Pacific Railroad corridor has been discussed multiple times at the Santa Barbara County Elected Leaders Forums to Address Homelessness (Forums). There has been consistent interest expressed by the member agencies to work collaboratively on a joint effort to deal with homeless encampments, particularly on property not controlled by local agencies such as Caltrans and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). This shared problem and the need to be responsive to concerns such as wellness and safety of unsheltered individuals, fire risk, impacts to creeks and watersheds, etc., as well as the overall need for a unified approach have also been discussed at the Forums.

On October 29, 2021, the State of California released a Request for Applications for an Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Program. The State of California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) has made \$47.5M of competitive funding available to resolve encampments. The deadline for application submission is December 31, 2021.

On November 10, 2021, Santa Barbara County staff held a meeting of local communities, laying out the requirements and objectives of the ERF Program and asking local cities to join the County in applying for funds. Grant funds may be used for activities that advance the goal of the proposed project in any one of the following four categories:

1. Direct Services and Housing Options: Activities to address immediate crisis needs and paths toward safe and stable housing for people living in encampments including, but not limited to, street outreach and engagement, housing and/or systems navigation, interim housing, and permanent housing.
2. Capacity Building: Activities to enhance the systems carrying out the demonstration project including, but not limited to, service coordination efforts, establishing and strengthening cross-system partnerships, and workforce development including specialized training and contracting with providers of culturally specific interventions.
3. Sustainable Outcomes: Activities and interventions to ensure sustained outcomes for the people served and to support sustained restoration of encampment sites to their intended or original state.
4. Administration: Up to 5% of grant funds may be applied to administrative costs.

The HCFC will analyze awarded demonstration projects to evaluate activities and outcomes for the purpose of sharing scalable and replicable encampment resolution models that may be implemented across the state.

The ERF grant is not intended to be the sole funding source for a new encampment resolution project. Awarded grant funding should be used to accelerate promising programs and practices that are in development and that enhance partnerships and leverage other resources, including initiatives funded by other HCFC grants.

DISCUSSION:

Santa Barbara County will be spearheading the effort of drafting the Encampment Resolution Funding Request. To increase the standing of the application, Santa Barbara County has asked local communities to submit a Letter of Intent (Attachment 1) to participate in the collaborative application. Santa Barbara County has noted that funding would be used in the following ways in Goleta and its environs:

Santa Barbara County:

- Encampment response protocol (coordinator, sanitation services, storage, mapping software)
- Encampment resolution strategy (completion of shelter beds, temporary housing operations, MDT full implementation, street outreach housing navigators)

City of Santa Barbara:

- Non-congregate shelter
- Street outreach

City of Goleta:

- Non-congregate shelter
- Street outreach

Additional requirements of the ERF Program include:

1. Comply with the principles of Housing First as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code section 8255; and
2. Serve a specific encampment site (Section III. C. Part 2: Prioritized Encampment, *see following page for specific site and population*); and
3. Designed to achieve sustainable outcomes for both recipients of services and the encampment site to be resolved.

The Prioritized Encampment Site and Population to be Served in Santa Barbara County is the principal Transit Corridor (along U.S. Hwy 101 and CA Hwy 1, where railroad parallels and intersects highways), targeting population in documented danger of fires and vehicle/train right-of-way pedestrian strikes. The specific encampment site, section of an encampment, or closely linked community of encampments, being resolved crosses cities in each County district, for a total of 53 camps and 99 persons based on current mapping software data.

This funding request to HCFC is intended to support local agencies' ability to work together on the shared problem of homeless encampments and is responsive to the concerns and needs that have been discussed at previous Forums and presented in the Background section of this report.

GOLETA'S HOMELESSNESS STRATEGIC PLAN:

Santa Barbara County's request to the City of Goleta to join the County's Encampment Resolution Funding Request could help in the advancement of some of the goals in Goleta's Homelessness Strategic Plan, adopted by Council on April 20, 2021. Specifically, the goal "Increase the Supply of Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing & Emergency Housing" could be supported.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There is no fiscal impact to the City of Goleta.

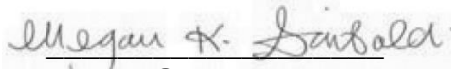
ALTERNATIVES:

Council could choose to not join Santa Barbara County's collaborative Encampment Resolution Funding Request application to the State of California and not sign a Letter of Intent.


Reviewed By:


Kristine Schmidt
Assistant City Manager

Legal Review By:


Megan Garibaldi
City Attorney

Approved By:

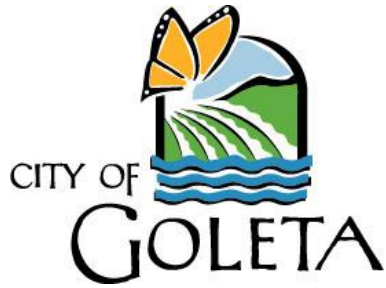

Michelle Greene
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. City of Goleta Letter of Intent to participate in Santa Barbara County collaborative application for the State of California Encampment Resolution Funding Program

ATTACHMENT 1

City of Goleta Letter of Intent to participate in Santa Barbara County
collaborative application for the State of California Encampment Resolution
Funding Program



December 7, 2021

CITY COUNCIL

Paula Perotte
Mayor

James Kyriaco
Mayor Pro Tempore

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Councilmember

Stuart Kasdin
Councilmember

Kyle Richards
Councilmember

CITY MANAGER
Michelle Greene

HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCING COUNCIL (HCFC)
Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Program
915 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-2820
www.hcfc.ca.gov

Re: Encampment Resolution Funding Program Letter of Support

The City of Goleta enthusiastically supports the Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) application submitted by the County of Santa Barbara. The City of Goleta recently adopted its Homelessness Strategic Plan on April 20, 2021 and is working to implement the Plan's stated goals and objectives, including "Reduce the Impacts of Homelessness on the Community" and "Conduct periodic encampment cleanups while connecting residents with services." Goleta has experienced a considerable increase in encampments along the Highway 101 corridor through the city.

The City of Goleta has been actively engaged in efforts to address homelessness for many years. We have recently contracted with CityNet to provide outreach and bridge housing services; funded shelter beds at People Assisting The Homeless (PATH); funded safe parking services for those living in cars and RVs; provided space for warming centers and senior nutrition programs; and partnered with community environmental groups to ensure sensitive habitats are rehabilitated after a camp has been cleared. The City of Goleta has regularly participated in community action plans, strategic planning, and ERF collaborative application planning meetings and has actively collaborated with various other focused organizations to address homelessness on a regional level.

This program and funding is important to Santa Barbara County's continued regional efforts to ensure the wellness and safety of people

experiencing homelessness in encampments, including their immediate physical and mental wellness and safety needs arising from unsheltered homelessness and their longer-term needs addressed through a path to safe and stable housing. Meeting the needs of people who are experiencing homelessness through strategies exemplifying Housing First values and non-punitive, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate approaches is an important priority for the City of Goleta and our specific team/staff/clients, such as outreach teams often serve as a primary point of contact for individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County.

If given the opportunity to implement the proposed Encampment Resolution Funding program, the City of Goleta is committed to participating in order to enhance the services and opportunities available to further the County's efforts to address immediate crisis needs and paths towards safe and stable housing for people living in encampments including, but not limited to, street outreach and engagement, housing and/or systems navigation, interim housing, and permanent housing.

Sincerely,

Mayor Perotte