

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 09, 2024**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 4**

**SUBJECT: APPROVE A PILOT SHARED HOUSING FOR OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS AMONG OLDER ADULTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

Of the nearly 3.4 million people currently living in San Diego County, approximately 908,000 are over the age of 55. According to the California Department of Finance demographic projections, that number is expected to grow to more than 1 million by 2030. With a longstanding commitment to ensuring that all communities within San Diego County have the capacity to support the unique needs of the aging population, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board), took action on August 29, 2023 (22) to address growing the homelessness among older adults. As part of this action, the Board directed staff to return with a program design, implementation plan, and evaluation framework for an older adult shared housing program. The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Housing and Community Development Services conducted a comprehensive review of 16 different shared housing models as well as the December 2020 *Shared Housing in San Diego Report* by the Regional Task Force on Homelessness and collaborated with County departments of Aging & Independence Services, Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, and the Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics to develop a pilot program called the Shared Housing for Older Adults Program (SHOAP).

SHOAP aims to prevent homelessness, reduce the burden of housing costs, support aging in place, and offer a means of companionship for the region’s older adults by creating shared living arrangements. This will be achieved through recruiting, assessing, and matching low- to moderate-income older adults, aged 55 years and older, who may be struggling to find affordable housing with appropriate homeowners or renters with an extra bedroom. The program will aim to create and support approximately 25 housing matches a year over the two-year pilot.

Today’s action requests the Board to approve the pilot SHOAP and to authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to pursue future funding opportunities related to addressing the housing needs of older adults. This item supports the County’s vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, as well as the ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities by creating new housing opportunities for older adults. Additionally, this item aligns with the County Framework for Ending Homelessness by creating homeless prevention measures for individuals with a high risk of housing instability. Finally, the proposed SHOAP also supports the County’s Aging Roadmap priority area of Housing by increasing the supply of housing options for older adults.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Approve the pilot Shared Housing for Older Adults Program.
2. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to pursue future funding opportunities related to addressing the housing needs of older adults.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

According to the 2022 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, nearly 73% of San Diego County's householders over the age of 55 own their homes. However, in 2015 the San Diego Seniors Community Foundation reported that within the renter population, 55.8% of single older adults who live alone reported they struggle to make ends meet. The 2023 Point-in-Time Count found that 2,670 San Diegans aged 55 years and older are experiencing homelessness, representing more than a quarter of the homeless population. Additionally, a 2021 survey conducted by Serving Seniors found that among unsheltered older adults, 88% became homeless in San Diego County and 45% are experiencing homelessness for the first time in their lives. Furthermore, community feedback provided from listening sessions and focus groups for the development of the Aging Roadmap concluded that older adult renters in San Diego County reported affordability as a pervasive problem, especially for those living on a fixed income. Other concerns included the challenges in finding affordable housing options and a growing concern for environmental factors that impact their safety.

The highlighted data underscore the exponentially growing need for affordable housing options for older adults, but also present opportunities within the older adult population rate of homeownership. The Shared Housing for Older Adults Program aims to link older adults aged 55 years and older who are looking for housing with appropriate homeowners or renters with an extra bedroom. The program also provides ongoing support for a sustainable living arrangement.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions support the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access, and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect health and well-being of San Diegans. Sustainability Goal #2 will be accomplished through the creation of a program that prioritizes older adults as an underserved population for affordable housing opportunities. Additionally, utilizing the shared housing model optimizes the efficiency of the current housing supply. Sustainability Goal #4 will be accomplished through providing older adult participants the ability to age in place, avoid homelessness, and foster new social relationships.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-25 Operational Plan in Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) and the Office of Evaluation Performance and Analytics (OEPA).

If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$161,000 in FY 2023-24 and \$135,000 in FY 2024-25 in HHSA and an estimated cost of \$15,000 in FY 2024-25 in OEPA, for a total estimated cost of \$311,000.

These costs include one-time costs of up to \$200,000 in FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25, and \$96,000 in staffing costs to implement the Request for Proposal and administration of the two-year contract. Of these, up to \$200,000 will be used to implement the two-year pilot Shared Housing for Older Adults Program. These costs will provide outreach, matching and other services for approximately 50 housing matches over two years administered through a contracted provider. The remaining \$15,000, needed only in FY 2024-25, will be required for program evaluation. These funds will cover data collection and related costs.

These costs will use existing appropriations and funds for subsequent years and will be incorporated into future Operational Plans. The funding source is existing one-time General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter