

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 25

SUBJECT: APPROVE A PILOT SHALLOW RENTAL SUBSIDY PROGRAM ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS AMONG OLDER ADULTS AND AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On February 8, 2022 (13), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) took action to further address the crisis of homelessness among older adults and directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to return to the Board with a plan for a pilot Shallow Rental Subsidy Program (SRSP) that would serve older adults who are very low or extremely low income, rent-burdened, and at risk of homelessness. The plan for the SRSP was to include recommendations on eligibility criteria, program size, funding needs and amounts. In addition, the plan was to include the development of an evaluation framework with a logic model, anticipated short-term and medium-term results, programmatic output and outcome metrics that would be collected and tracked over time; this evaluation framework would also include plans to measure the program's effectiveness.

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, Aging & Independence Services, and Housing and Community Development Services, developed proposed elements of the SRSP design, which include recommendations on eligibility and participation criteria, program size, funding, community outreach, and an evaluation framework plan. Today's action requests the Board approve the SRSP Implementation and Evaluation Plan and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for future funding opportunities related to addressing homelessness throughout the region.

Today's actions support the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations across San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as the ongoing commitment to the regional Live Well San Diego vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by improving the lives of older adults who are experiencing housing insecurity by providing a rental subsidy. Creation of this pilot program and an evaluation of its effectiveness will determine potential ongoing programming. This effort is in alignment with the County's Framework for Ending Homelessness, specifically in the Diversion and Mitigation Strategic Domain.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Approve the Pilot Shallow Rental Subsidy Program Implementation and Evaluation Plan.
2. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for future funding opportunities related to addressing homelessness throughout the region in the current and future fiscal years.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities' (HSEC) mission is to ensure equity among all San Diegans, foster a community that is welcoming to new residents, and reduce homelessness in the region. HSEC, is dedicated to addressing the root causes of homelessness and providing equitable access to preventative and supportive services for vulnerable residents.

Of the nearly 3.4 million people currently residing in San Diego County, approximately 959,000 are adults aged 55 or older. By 2030, the number of adults 55 years or older in San Diego County is expected to increase to more than 1.1 million. San Diego County's 55 or older population is projected to grow faster than any other age group, thus it is crucial that the County takes the needs of the region's older adults into account as the County plans for the future.

In the 2022 We All Count Point-in-Time Count, 8,427 individuals were identified as living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County. Of the 4,106 who were unsheltered, 25% were 55 years of age or older, 8% were youth and 15% reported chronic homelessness. While on average, 26% of San Diegans experiencing homelessness were over 55 in both 2020 and 2022, this year's count showed 47% of those seniors were experiencing homelessness for the first time, with 57% having a physical disability. The oldest person surveyed living on the street in San Diego County was 87. The Framework for Ending Homelessness outlines the County's strategic vision for ending homelessness over five strategic domains (Root Causes and Prevention; Diversion and Mitigation; Services, Treatment and Outreach; Emergency/Interim Housing and Resources; and Permanent Housing and Support) and supports building capacity across these strategic domains to ensure an equitable approach to service delivery.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed actions align with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals. By engaging the community through a comprehensive outreach strategy that includes working collaboratively with our community partners, the Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities will help raise awareness of the program among older adults. These actions also align with the goal to protect health and wellbeing, which will be accomplished by improving the lives of older adults who are experiencing housing insecurity through enhanced funding and creation of a pilot Shallow Rental Subsidy Program. The recommended actions will also provide just and equitable access to housing and support countywide, including to those who are disproportionately represented in the homeless system or have a range of health and social needs, or who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated total program costs and revenue of \$0.7 million in FY 2022-23, estimated costs and revenue of \$1.8 million in FY 2023-24 and estimated costs and revenue of \$0.4 million in FY 2024-25 for a total of \$2.9 million from FY 2022-23 through FY 2024-25. This includes costs for the rental subsidy payment, outreach, case management, and administration of the program. The funding sources are the American Rescue Plan Act, Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Grant Program Round 3, and Home Safe Program. The Health and Human Services Agency will continue to pursue additional funding opportunities to support further implementation plans resulting from the evidence-based and positive evaluation of the pilot program. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

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

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, 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