

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

MINUTE ORDER NO. 5

**SUBJECT: RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE FLEXIBLE HOUSING POOL AND AUTHORIZE
SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT WITH THE REGIONAL TASKFORCE
ON HOMELESSNESS FOR THE FLEXIBLE HOUSING POOL PROGRAM
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

On November 19, 2019 (12), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of a Flexible Housing Pool (FHP), which is a nationally recognized systems-level strategy to fund, locate, and secure housing for people experiencing homelessness in a coordinated and streamlined way. The overall approach of the FHP involves “pooling” resources from public and private entities to secure rental units and create a housing portfolio that allows individuals experiencing homelessness to quickly exit homelessness when they are matched to a unit that is paired with rental assistance and supportive services.

On January 28, 2020 (2), staff returned to the Board and presented options for a County of San Diego (County) managed FHP or a collaborative FHP with the Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH). The approved action requested staff work with the RTFH to explore developing a regional, collaborative FHP, and investigate sources for funding to allocate to the FHP. On March 10, 2020 (5), the Board approved funding to support the FHP and directed the CAO to return to the Board with a report on how the funds were leveraged and spent.

In October 2020, RTFH launched the San Diego FHP with the County acting as a partner contributing \$400,000. The FHP received 726 referrals, secured 459 units throughout San Diego County, and permanently housed 440 households between October 2020 and May 2022. Additional successes included a 92% 12-month retention rate, which exceeded the national average.

Today’s action requests the Board to receive an update on the FHP. It also requests authorization of an additional allocation of up to \$500,000 to the FHP, and in accordance with Board Policy A-87, to award a single source contract to the RTFH for the FHP.

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 our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by creating opportunities to increase housing stock and service needs of people experiencing homelessness in San Diego County and aligns with the County’s Framework for Ending Homelessness by providing a person-centered and housing-first approach that uses evidence-based and data-driven solutions.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive an update on how \$400,000 of California Emergency Solutions and Housing funds were leveraged and spent in support of the Flexible Housing Pool.
2. Approve allocation of up to \$500,000 of California Emergency Solutions and Housing funds to the Flexible Housing Pool.
3. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with the Regional Task Force on Homelessness, and subject to successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for the Flexible Housing Pool for an initial term of up to one year, and up to one option year with an additional six months if needed, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding, subject to the approval of the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or his designee.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

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

In 2022, the We All Count Point-in-Time Count, identified 8,427 individuals 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. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness, with 24% identifying as Black or African American, which is nearly five times the proportion of African Americans in the region; 3% identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, which is nearly three times the proportion in the region. In addition to the We All Count Point-in-Time Count, the Regional Task Force on Homelessness Community Snapshot Dashboard, shows that approximately 30% of people experiencing homelessness identified as Hispanic in 2021. Placement of households in Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) housing have begun to address these equity issues by demonstrating that approximately 26.6% of households served by the FHP identified as African American, 37.1% were over the age of 55, and 19.7% were youth. To address the root causes of these statistics and provide a plan to end homelessness, the Framework for Ending Homelessness was created, outlining the County's strategic path for ending homelessness across 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 also provides a vision for building capacity across these strategic domains to ensure an equitable approach to service delivery.

People at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, impacted community members, community partners, and other key stakeholders are engaged during the development of County plans to address homelessness, and their feedback is valued and incorporated into development of programs. The County recently conducted lived experience forums in the North, East, and South Regions to gain valuable information on shaping programs. Ensuring racial and social equity in all aspects of homelessness prevention and response is one of the key principles that guides the Framework for Ending

Homelessness and all items that fall under its strategic domains. It is anticipated that the FHP will provide needed housing and support countywide to those who are disproportionately represented in the homeless system including, people who are justice-involved or have a range of health and social needs, and/or who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color and young adults.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action to continue funding the Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) aligns with the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goals to engage the community; provide just and equitable access; and protect health and wellbeing. Continuing the FHP will allow County Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Homelessness and Equitable Communities and community partners, such as the Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH), to engage and gather informative feedback from people with lived experience of homelessness and offer them access to housing resources such as rental assistance funded by the FHP. It will also help foster partnerships and alliances to establish collective impact and provide assistance and resources to more people experiencing homelessness. Also, by engaging with community partners such as the RTFH, this increases the ability to leverage revenue from different partners and to maximize resources in the region towards an effective solution to homelessness. The FHP is designed to promote justice and equity by facilitating low-barrier access to services and housing. It works to protect the health and wellbeing of participants by ensuring people have case management support and access to physical and behavioral healthcare through housing-based case management and supportive services. These investments in expanding affordable housing and services in chronically underserved communities strengthens the resilience of vulnerable populations and contributes to the long-term wellness of the region. The FHP will also support communities and socio-economic groups historically impacted by homelessness by creating opportunities to further engage and address housing and service needs for low-income households.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-24 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of approximately \$250,000 in FY 2022-23 and costs and revenue of \$250,000 in FY 2023-24 for a total of \$500,000. Funds for this program will use existing appropriations and will be included in future Operational Plans as needed. The funding source is \$500,000 from the California Emergency Solutions in Housing 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 Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

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

