

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 24**

**SUBJECT: APPROVE ACTIONS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A  
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

Over the last few years, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has made significant investments to address the regional homelessness crisis and prevent individuals from entering the homeless system. On November 2, 2021 (4), the Board adopted the Framework for Ending Homelessness to align efforts throughout the region to assist people at-risk of, or experiencing homelessness, with the goal of ending this crisis. Subsequently on October 25, 2022 (21), the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a comprehensive integrated data system that can link and centralize multiple data points into one system; research and develop an implementation strategy for the creation of a Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP); create a Homelessness Prevention Unit within the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (HSEC); and assess the costs associated with and potential funding sources for these actions.

In response, HSEC in partnership with the County Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics, assembled a multi-disciplinary, cross-department workgroup to develop the HPP Implementation Strategy that outlines the strategies and steps for establishing the HPP. Today's actions request the Board approve the HPP Implementation Strategy. The elements of this strategy are designed to prevent at-risk households from becoming homeless by utilizing a Predictive Analytics Model to identify households at risk of homelessness. Today's action also requests the Board authorize applications for future funding opportunities related to addressing homelessness throughout the region.

This item supports the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in 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 through improving the lives of our most vulnerable residents by reducing homelessness and increasing self-sufficiency. Today's actions also align with the County's Framework for Ending Homelessness by addressing the Root Cause and Upstream Prevention Strategic Domain.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Approve the Homelessness Prevention Program Implementation Strategy which would be fully operationalized once sustainable funding is identified.
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**

According to the Regional Task Force on Homelessness, the 2022 Point-in-Time Count identified a minimum of 8,427 individuals who were unsheltered or in shelters throughout San Diego County. Of those who were unsheltered, 58% reported having a disability and 25% were 55 years of age or older. Additionally, data shows that people of color are disproportionately represented among those experiencing homelessness, with 27% identifying as Black or African American, roughly five times the proportion of African American population in the region, and 3% identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native, which is nearly three times the proportion of American Indian or Alaska Native population in the region. Through the Homelessness Prevention Program, the County of San Diego will work with those at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, impacted residents, community partners, and other key stakeholders to ensure racial and social equity is front and center in all aspects of homelessness prevention activities.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's proposed actions support the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goal #1 to engage the community; Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access; and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect health and well-being. By utilizing a predictive risk assessment model and using combined data from County departments and other partners, today's item will help to identify households at risk of homelessness. Using this information, the County will be able to engage with these individuals within our community, provide just and equitable access to resources and housing supports to help prevent homelessness, and protect their health and well-being by connecting them with services they need.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's recommendations. There may be future fiscal impacts based on recommendations from today's action. If sustainable funding is identified, it is estimated that ongoing annual costs for the establishment of the Homelessness Prevention Unit would be up to \$3.8 million. This estimate includes funding for 12 County staff and associated operating costs and indirect costs, inclusive of up to \$1.5 million in participant funding for housing and related expenses supporting housing stability for an estimated 280 households. The participant funding amount could vary depending on need. Additionally, the initial year of start-up would include \$0.3 million in one-time costs for the implementation of an evaluation framework for the program. Funding for the one-time and start-up costs will need to be identified by the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency prior to further action. The County's Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities will monitor its budget and return to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors with mid-year action to adjust the budget if necessary and/or incorporate in future operational plans if funding becomes available. At this time, there is no impact to net General Fund costs, and there will be no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

Investing in initiatives that prevent homelessness will have multiple benefits for individuals and families, and for local communities and businesses, with clear benefits for our economy. Keeping more working families in their homes stands to benefit them and our regional economy long term.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended and directed the Chief Administrative Officer to return in one year with a progress update.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 4 Seat Vacant)

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