



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2017

TO: Family and Human Services Committee
Supervisor John Gioia, Chairperson
Supervisor Candace Andersen, Member

FROM: Gabriel Lemus, CDBG Program Manager

SUBJECT: Report on allocating FY 2016/17 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to provide Homeless Street Outreach Services

BACKGROUND

On May 10, 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved the Contra Costa County Action Plan for the use of FY 2016/17 CDBG funds. Under the Public Services category, \$22,224 of CDBG funds were committed to provide support towards Homeless Street Outreach services; however, due to the reorganization of the County's homeless Continuum of Care service approach to embrace the new Coordinated Entry system strategy, no agency was identified at that time to carry out the service.

Implementation of the new Coordinated Entry system is currently underway. Under the new system, Contra Costa County Health Services Department (CCC-HSD) is the lead entity in the Coordinated Outreach Referral and Engagement (CORE) Homeless Street Outreach Program. Under the CORE Homeless Street Outreach Program, CCC-HSD provides oversight to both day and evening/weekend homeless street outreach teams. This ensures that all homeless outreach operates with the same protocol, with warm handoffs between the teams, and gives jurisdictions an accurate and unduplicated count of persons served by the combined team and programmatic effort. At this time, there are two day teams consisting of two trained outreach workers, two trained outreach team leads, and an Outreach Coordinator which are staffed by CCC-HSD. The day teams hand

off street outreach services for evening/weekend (Saturday) homeless outreach to teams staffed by Anka Behavioral Health, who is subcontracted with CCC-HSD to provide evening/weekend outreach services as part of the overall CORE Street Outreach Program.

CORE Homeless Street Outreach Program services and support will include but are not limited to:

- Referral and connection to “Health Care for the Homeless” Program medical staff to engage homeless individuals including collection of basic personal and demographic data;
- Administer initial screening tools and document concerns and disabilities regarding lack of housing financial support;
- Connect to medical and mental health and any substance abuse services;
- Facilitate the completion and submission of Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and/or SSI applications and related documentation for eligible consumers;
- Provide basic survival supplies;
- Assist local law enforcement, communities, and businesses in non-enforcement types of responses where appropriate;
- Connect individuals to the Mental Health Transitions Team for mental health needs and non-psychiatric emergencies with individuals ready to accept substance abuse treatment;
- Connect consumers to interim housing, multiservice centers, case management, and supports towards permanent housing.

County CDBG staff utilized the recent State ESG procurement process and results to fulfill federal procurement responsibilities under the CDBG Program. Utilizing this procurement process, CCC-HSD submitted an application for \$22,224 of CDBG funds to support its the Coordinated CORE Homeless Street Outreach Program.

On January 17, 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved allocating \$22,224 of FY 2016/17 CDBG funds to CCC-HSD to support its CORE Homeless Street Outreach Services Program. The Cities of Antioch, Pittsburg, and Walnut Creek support this homeless street outreach service approach and have also recently allocated some of their FY 2016/17 CDBG funds to CCC-HSD for the CORE Program.

cc: John Kopchik, Director – Department of Conservation and Development
Kara Douglas, Assistant Deputy Director