

County of Santa Clara
Office of the County Executive
Office of Supportive Housing



86945

DATE: August 29, 2017

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ky Le, Director, Office of Supportive Housing

SUBJECT: Second Amendment to HomeFirst Agreement for Cold Weather Shelter

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Under advisement from June 6, 2017 (Item No. 13): Approve Second Amendment to Agreement with HomeFirst Services of Santa Clara County relating to providing cold weather shelter services at various locations in the county increasing the maximum contract amount by \$4,501,612 from \$6,006,990 to \$10,508,602 with no change to the term of the Agreement, that has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form and legality. (Office of Supportive Housing)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The increase to the contract amount of \$4,501,612 includes \$1,400,000 for shelter services at the Mountain View site and \$3,101,612 for extended or expanded services at the Gilroy Armory and County Winter Shelter in Sunnyvale sites for fiscal years 2018 through 2021. Table 1 summarizes the proposed budget for HomeFirst Services of Santa Clara County (HomeFirst); HomeFirst’s FY 2017 budget includes \$190,000, which was added on a one-time basis to temporarily extend the CWSP during the FY 2017 season.

Table 1

CWSP Site/Program	FY17	Revised Budgets for FY18-21				Total 5-Year Contract
		FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	
Mountain View Shelter	\$0	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$1,400,000
County Winter Shelter--Sunnyvale	\$854,066	\$1,149,379	\$1,149,379	\$1,149,379	\$1,149,379	\$5,451,582
Gilroy Armory	\$499,332	\$789,422	\$789,422	\$789,422	\$789,422	\$3,657,020
Annual Contract Budget Totals	\$1,353,398	\$2,288,801	\$2,288,801	\$2,288,801	\$2,288,801	\$10,508,602

Funding for the shelter services at the Mountain View site is included in the Office of Supportive Housing’s (OSH) FY 17-18 Adopted Budget. For FY 17-18, the OSH will use salary savings to fund expanded services in Sunnyvale and Gilroy. In order to continue additional services in Sunnyvale and Gilroy after FY 17-18, the OSH may return to the Board

of Supervisors to request ongoing appropriations as part of the FY 18-19 budget process.

The recommended action does not include the cost of the physical improvements that would be needed at the County Winter Shelter in Sunnyvale in order to accommodate 50 additional individuals. The OSH and the Facilities and Fleet Department (FAF) to determine the necessary improvements.

CONTRACT HISTORY

After a formal competitive process that was initiated on March 21, 2016, the Office of Supportive Housing (OSH) selected HomeFirst Services of Santa Clara County (HomeFirst) to provide shelter, outreach and support services in North and South County during the cold weather season. The Board approved the agreement with HomeFirst on September 13, 2016 (Item #No.16). On April 11, 2017 (Item #No.68), the Board approved the First Amendment to this agreement in order to temporarily expand the cold weather season from March 30, 2017 to April 15, 2017 for the Gilroy Armory and from March 30, 2017 to April 30, 2017 for the County Winter Shelter in Sunnyvale.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Under advisement from the June 6, 2017 Board of Supervisors meeting (Item #13), the recommended action enables the Administration to expand or enhance emergency shelter and services at three sites during the cold weather season.

The County, through HomeFirst, would expand the cold weather season by approximately 60 days annually. Traditionally, the Cold Weather Shelter Program (CWSP) operates from the Monday after Thanksgiving until the end of March. Starting in FY 2018, the cold weather shelter program will commence on October 15th and end on April 15th. The recommended actions enable HomeFirst to operate expanded cold weather shelter services at the Gilroy Armory and at the County Winter Shelter in Sunnyvale. The cold weather shelter program at the Arturo Ochoa Migrant Center (AOMC) in Gilroy will continue operating from about mid-November to the end of March.

Second, the recommended action enables HomeFirst to provide emergency shelter and supportive services at a new site – Trinity United Methodist Church (TUMC) on 748 Mercy Street in Mountain View. The number of homeless individuals and families has risen by 48% in city of Mountain View over the last two years. During the last CWSP period, over 25 families were turned away from the Sunnyvale location due to lack of bed availability. Over the last six months, the County has been working with TUMC, the City of Mountain View and other stakeholders to consider ways to help meet homeless individuals' and families' shelter needs during the winter. Pending final approval from the City of Mountain View, TUMC would host a cold weather shelter program at its site starting this upcoming cold weather season. HomeFirst would operate and manage the shelter. The target population is homeless families and single women. The program proposes serving no more than 50 people each night and operate on a referral basis. Due to planned renovations at the site, the cold

weather shelter program in Mountain View may not begin until January 2018. Since this would be a new program for the Mountain View community, HomeFirst would provide shelter services through March 31st. However, the program may be extended to match the new cold weather season of October 15th through April 15th.

Finally, the recommended action enables HomeFirst to serve an additional 50 individuals at the County Winter Shelter in Sunnyvale. The additional beds will be utilized by homeless individuals who are participating in the countywide network of permanent supportive programs (otherwise known as Care Coordination Project). The additional beds are intended to serve as interim housing for individuals who are receiving supportive services and have access to permanent rental subsidies, but are still searching for rental units. The interim housing provides the individuals with more stability to address their health issues and other housing barriers.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended actions will have a positive impact on children and youth. On a nightly basis, the County Winter Shelter in Sunnyvale and the Gilroy Armory provides emergency shelter and supportive services for approximately eight families with children. Expanding the cold weather season will allow those sites to serve more families or provide longer shelter stays to homeless families. Expanding the CWSP to Mountain View enables the County to serve approximately 15 additional homeless families each night.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on homeless seniors. About 9% of the homeless population in Santa Clara County on any given night is 61 years of age or older. Homeless seniors may access the additional shelter capacity.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

BACKGROUND

The CWSP has been in operation for over 25 years. For most of those years, a community-based organization (HomeFirst) operated emergency shelters from three facilities, one each in Sunnyvale, San José and Gilroy. Traditionally, the CWSP began at the end of November and ended on March 31st, unless inclement weather conditions exist, in which case the program was extended.

For more many years, the CWSP operated out of National Guard armories. California law states that National Guard Armories “shall be made available to the county...for the purpose of providing temporary shelter for homeless persons during the period from October 15th through April 15th each year.” Over the years, the operations have shifted to other sites due to closure of armories. Currently the Gilroy Armory is the only armory used for emergency shelter during the cold weather season.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

HomeFirst would not be able to expand the CWSP at the County Winter Shelter in Sunnyvale, the Gilroy Armory, and in Mountain View.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon approval, the Clerk of the Board is requested to send an email notification to Michelle Covert: michelle.covert@hhs.sccgov.org and Ky Le: Ky.Le@hhs.sccgov.org at the OSH.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Homefirst 2nd amendment CWSP services (PDF)