

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



82532 A

DATE: September 13, 2016
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Ky Le, Director, Office of Supportive Housing
SUBJECT: Cold Weather Shelter Program FY17 through FY21

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendations relating to the Cold Weather Shelter Program for Fiscal Year 2017 through Fiscal Year 2021. (Office of Supportive Housing)

Possible action:

- a. Approve Agreement with HomeFirst Services of Santa Clara County relating to providing emergency shelter, outreach and support services for homeless persons at the Gilroy Armory and the North County Winter Shelter in Sunnyvale in an amount not to exceed \$5,816,990 for period September 19, 2016 to June 30, 2021, that has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form and legality.
- b. Approve Agreement with St. Joseph's Family Center relating to providing emergency shelter, outreach and support services for homeless persons at the Arturo Ochoa Migrant Center in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 for period September 19, 2016 to June 30, 2021, that has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form and legality.
- c. Receive Report relating to preparing 999 Hamlin Court, Sunnyvale, for use as the North County Winter Shelter.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed services with HomeFirst Services of Santa Clara County (HomeFirst) and St. Joseph's Family Center (St. Joseph's) total \$1,663,398 annually. This amount is included as part of the Office of Supportive Housing's (OSH) approved budget for FY 2017.

CONTRACT HISTORY

After a formal competitive process that was initiated on March 21, 2016, the OSH selected HomeFirst and St. Joseph's to provide shelter, outreach and support services in North and South County during the cold weather season (November through March of each fiscal year).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Agreements for Cold Weather Shelter Program (CWSP)

The proposed Agreements implement the CWSP, which would provide shelter and services to approximately 360 homeless persons each night during the coldest and wettest months of the year.

Each night, HomeFirst would operate 130 emergency shelter beds in Gilroy and 125 emergency shelter beds in Sunnyvale. St. Joseph's would conduct outreach in South County during declared Inclement Weather Episodes and would provide case management to some of the clients of the shelter in Gilroy.

In addition, St. Joseph's would provide nightly shelter and case management to 35 homeless families at the Arturo Ochoa Migrant Center (AOMC) in Gilroy. This new component of the Cold Weather Shelter Program was approved by the Board as part of the FY 2017 budget. The Administration is still finalizing an agreement with the State's Office of Migrant Services to use AOMC during cold weather seasons.

Status of North County Shelter Site at 999 Hamlin Court, Sunnyvale

At its meeting on June 21, 2016, (Item #18) the Board directed the Administration to hold regular meetings with stakeholders to address any concerns related to establishing a permanent location for the North County component of the CWSP. The Administration's key tasks included: 1) a \$3,000,000 capital improvement project to convert a portion of 999 Hamlin Court into a cold weather shelter; and, 2) developing an Operational Plan for the site that takes into account clients' and neighbors' safety.

To date, the OSH and Facilities and Fleet (FAF) have hosted four community meetings and have provided the Sunnyvale City Council with one report. Eighty-one individuals, including local business owners and employees, residents, service providers, Sunnyvale City Council members and Sunnyvale staff, have participated in the meetings. The OSH has scheduled ongoing monthly meetings.

The meeting participants discussed and finalized the Operational Plan for the CWSP at the Hamlin site. This plan includes details of how: 1) the shelter program will function; 2) program staff will communicate with neighboring businesses and handle any issues that arise; 3) program security will interact with the clients and neighboring businesses; 4) program outreach workers will interact with the local community to address/resolve any client-related concerns; and 5) program shuttle service will facilitate the safe departure and arrival of clients to/from locations in Sunnyvale, especially the nearby bus stop on Mathilda Avenue.

As of August 12, 2016, FAF has completed all of the design work and has prepared construction documents. Construction will begin on September 1, 2016, and will be complete on November 15, 2016. Among other things, FAF will install new bathrooms,

showers, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, windows, a food service area, and washers and dryers. The modular building, which had been used for the shelter last winter, will be removed from the site and stored elsewhere. If the project is delayed, the Administration has plans in place to use the warehouse portion of the building as a temporary shelter until the rehabilitation work is completed.

The County is contracting with Sandis Civil Engineers to study and, if necessary, install a sidewalk and additional lighting on the path between the site and the bus stop nearest to the site. It will not be possible to install a sidewalk for the 2016-17 cold weather season. Therefore, as noted above, during the upcoming season, HomeFirst will operate a shuttle service between the bus stop and the site when the shelter opens and closes each day.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended actions would have a positive impact on children and youth. On a nightly basis, the CWSP would provide emergency shelter and supportive services for 35 homeless families with children.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended actions would provide some homeless seniors with emergency shelter and supportive services.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended actions will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

BACKGROUND

The CWSP has been in operation for over 20 years. Each season, from November through March, a community-based organization (HomeFirst) operated emergency shelters from three facilities, one each in Sunnyvale, San José and Gilroy. The County's contribution to CWSP operations varied over the years, ranging from \$400,000 to \$800,000 per year.

Over the last five years, there have been two significant changes to the CWSP. First, as State and Federal sources for emergency shelter have decreased, the Board has increased the County's funding commitments to prevent injury or death among homeless men, women and children during the cold weather season. The County has also augmented the cold weather shelters with outreach services during periods of extreme cold and/or extended rain. The second significant change was that the Sunnyvale Armory – which had served as the location for North County – was demolished and replaced with 116 units of affordable and supportive housing.

On April 15, 2014, the Board directed the Administration to work with the cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale, as well as other stakeholders, to find a permanent replacement site for the CWSP in North County. In November 2015, the County purchased a warehouse located at 999 Hamlin Court in Sunnyvale. On June 21, 2016, the Board

approved \$3,000,000 to convert a portion of the site for use as a cold weather shelter. Improvements and modifications to the warehouse should be complete by November 15, 2016.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Administration would not be able to implement programs to shelter and serve homeless individuals and families during the cold weather season.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon approval, the Clerk of the Board is requested to send email notification to Robert A. Dolci: Robert.dolci@hhs.sccgov.org of the Office of Supportive Housing.

ATTACHMENTS:

- SA--CWSP--FY17-21--HF--GA+HC--signed (PDF)
- SA--Ochoa+Outreach+CM--FY17-21--SJFC--signed (PDF)