

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 5th 2021, 2pm-3:30pm
Zoom Call**

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Anne Robin Joanna Balsamo-Lillien Kathy McClenathen Ken Triguero Marianne Kennedy Mark Lamore Scott Smith		Anne Wyatt Cara Vereschagin	Angela Smith Carolyn Berg Elaine Archer George Solis Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Matt Leal Nicole Bennett Rick Gulino Russ Francis Steve Martin Sue Warren Tom Sherman
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Scott called the meeting to order at 2pm.		
2. Public Comment	Matt Leal shared that the Department of Planning & Building (Planning) has now released draft recommendations for the 2021 Action Plan. The 30 day review period began on December 30 and runs until January 29. Two virtual workshops will be held on January 13.		
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes			Marianne made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mark. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and

		no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1 Discussion Item: Priorities for HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program) funding	<p>Laurel reported that the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 2 application requires the County to prioritize activities that can demonstrate need based on existing data. Laurel shared with the group the specific information which is being asked for, e.g. the number of individuals who need specific kinds of support. Data from the County's HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) can help with some of the answers, but the number of individuals in need of rental assistance is more difficult to define. Laurel opened up the discussion for the Committee to input ideas for determining how many homeless people in the County are in need of rental assistance.</p> <p>Elaine suggested that the number would be 100% of homeless people, or very close to this number, as even people whose income is 80% of AMI (Area Median Income) cannot afford the rent on a 2+ bedroom house in SLO County.</p> <p>Laurel clarified that there are two rounds of HHAP funding. The County and CoC (Continuum of Care) have already secured the funds worth around \$2.3 million from Round 1, and the RFP (Request for Proposals) for Round 1 will be released early this year. For Round 2, the County and CoC have until January 23 to submit applications. The combined allocation for Round 2 is around \$1.5 million. The RFP for Round 2 will be released in April at the earliest, and will focus on services that move people into permanent housing.</p> <p>Ken asked if HHAP funding can be used to support HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) projects and ensure they succeed. Laurel responded that HSOC and the Board of Supervisors have endorsed this for the first round of HHAP funds. This will not be possible in the same way for the second round, although the County may be able to specify priorities in its application that can be used to support the services</p>	

	<p>provided through HEAP funding.</p> <p>The County will discuss the HHAP application with the Executive Committee at its meeting on January 12. The Housing Committee considered recommendations for HHAP priorities. Scott and Anne suggested permanent and affordable supportive housing as the first priority, while acknowledging that this takes more money than other activities such as rental assistance. Laurel clarified that more than one priority can be recommended, and that the time frame for expending the HHAP money is around four years. Nicole suggested that funding could be used for a medical outreach program, along with mental health and substance abuse services, as discussed by the Encampment Committee's Alternatives to Encampment Working Group. Laurel clarified that the funding can be used for outreach, though this would have to be specifically focused on outreach workers rather than programs.</p>	
4.2 Discussion Item: Housing Developers Roundtable	<p>Laurel opened up the discussion to housing developers to talk about what they are working on and any issues encountered.</p> <p>Ken shared the projects that People's Self Help Housing are working on across the county, including those in Templeton, San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach, Atascadero, Cambria and Grover Beach. Some of these projects have units that are nearly ready to open, while others still require work on financing. Ken also shared that the relief package recently signed has made more tax credits available by locking in the lower rate at 4%. State laws have proven helpful, allowing for the fast tracking of some projects and locking in development fees.</p> <p>Scott shared that HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) are working on a number of developments, including those in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay and Pismo Beach. HASLO are continuing to look for funding for these projects.</p>	

<p>4.3 Discussion Item: Project Homekey</p>	<p>Scott shared that the purchase of the Motel 6 building in Paso Robles has now been completed, through Project Homekey funding which was made available through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. A portion of the building (42 rooms once it is operating at full capacity) will be used for emergency shelter and short term stays. This part of the building is already in operation, managed by ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization). The rest of the facility (60 units) is still undergoing renovations and will be used for permanent housing, managed by HASLO and People's Self Help Housing. Project Homekey funding includes the requirement of 50% occupancy of the building by March 2. Scott reported that the agencies are on schedule to meet this.</p>	
<p>4.4 Discussion Item: CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act Grants Update</p>	<p>Laurel shared that the County is now reviewing local applications for the second round of ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) funding. Recommendations will be taken to the full HSOC meeting on January 20. This funding can be used for street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing and (for the Federal, not State allocation of the funding) homelessness prevention.</p> <p>Funding for the first round of ESG-CV was awarded last year. The County is now working on getting contracts finalized and executed so that the funds can be distributed. These funds will be used largely to reimburse money already expended in 2020. George shared that the Round 1 award totaled around \$467,000 and was awarded to two projects – apartments for medically fragile homeless people run by Transitional Food & Shelter, and a collaborative application between 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition), CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) and ECHO, for rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention, staffing and operations for emergency shelter, and expansion of PPE (personal protective equipment) for outreach staff.</p> <p>The third round of CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus) will be reviewed along with the ESG-CV applications, and recommendations will go to the same HSOC meeting for approval. The</p>	

	CDBG-CV applications will also go to a committee consisting of representatives from the seven incorporated cities for review prior to recommendations being reviewed by HSOC.	
5. Future Discussion Items	None	
6. Next Meeting Date: February 2, 2021		
7. Adjournment	Scott adjourned the meeting at 3:25pm.	