

Our City, Our Home Fund

Notes from Emergency Shelter and Hygiene Services Partnership Meeting

February 15, 2022

Present: Jennifer Friedenbach (OCOH Oversight Committee), Gigi Whitley (Dept of Homelessness and Supportive Housing), Emily Cohen (HSH), Noelle Simmons (HSH), Lena Miller (Oversight Committee), Amy Sawyer (Mayor's Office), Jessica Shimmin (Controller's Office)

Up to 10% of OCOH Fund can be used for emergency shelter and hygiene services with the goal of creating shelter for over 1,000 people. Find investments reflect the strategic intention to:

- Expand non-congregate sheltering options.
- Make shelter more accessible and welcoming to underserved populations.
- Continue using hotel vouchers as shelter.
- Increase opportunities and geographic options for sheltering youth.
- Expand services and facilities to meet people's basic needs.

HSH affirmed commitment to the 2-year investment plan. Implementation is moving forward quickly. Some key points:

- System is still at reduced shelter capacity because of COVID.
- 711 Post is coming online with some OCOH Funds this year
- Cabins at 33 Gough will be launched, adding 70 cabins.
- SIP hotels, 2 safe sleep sites (inc Mission), and the RV site are continuing into the next fiscal year.
- Funds are encumbered for the Oasis family shelter
- MOHCD is using TAY hotel vouchers funds to support their existing TAY hotel program as HSH goes through a planning process with youth and youth service providers.

Committee Members noted and City staff affirmed that Our City, Our Home shelter and hygiene funds are 100% programmed.

Because of revenue weakness, the Emergency Shelter and Hygiene budget will sustain a \$3.9m reduction in current year. To mitigate the budget shortfall, the HSH has:

- Secured a state grant for vehicle triage center in Bayview, will relieve some current year pressure from shortfall
- Applied for a state encampment resolution grant to fund Mission Safe Sleep program in next fiscal year
- Will continue pursuing state resources, other outside resources, and general fund resources.

Meeting participants discussed methods for reducing cost.

- Hotel vouchers highlighted as a cost effective, non-congregate shelter strategy.
- Purchasing sanitation and hygiene stations as opposed to renting could produce savings.
- Suggestion to clarify and evaluate the Safe Sleep program model. Population served at Safe Sleep sites have acute needs that require skilled staffing. Because of the low staff to participant ratio and staff training, participants in safe sleep programs stabilize and move into permanent housing.

Meeting participants discussed the paradigm shift away from congregate shelter and toward non-congregate shelter models (hotels, containers, cabins, etc.), as well as more emergency overnight health and hygiene interventions like safe parking, vehicle triage, safe sleep.

- Argument for self-referral to shelter to reinforce self-determination and quantify unmet need.

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- Department seeking a hybrid solution that includes both prioritization and self-identification for shelter.
- Updated PIT numbers and OCOH Committee's Needs Assessment/Inventory Analysis will contribute to quantifying unmet need.

Next Steps

- Future Evaluation of various models of shelter and overnight supports
- Data: needs assessment/gaps analysis will come to the Committee in March.
- Consider data and outcomes to track as we move into the second year of the investment plan.