

Our City, Our Home Fund
Notes from Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Partnership Meeting
February 17, 2022

Present: Julie Leadbetter (OCOH Oversight Committee), Nina Catalano (OCOH Oversight Committee), Gigi Whitley (Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing), Emily Cohen (HSH), Amy Sawyer (Mayor's Office), Hugo Ramirez (Mayor's Office on Housing and Community Development), Noelle Simmons (HSH), Jenny Louie (Department of Public Health).

Up to 15% of OCOH Fund can be invested in homelessness prevention and diversion services toward the target of preventing 7,000 people from becoming homeless each year.

The 2-year investment plan seeks to:

- Develop a core homelessness prevention and diversion system.
- Support PSH residents in retaining housing.
- Tailor supports to the unique needs of adults, justice involved, youth, and families with children.
- Expand access to workforce training, employment programs, and job placement services

Partners affirmed commitment to implementing the plan and reviewed progress at 6 months, 25% into implementation of the 2-year investment plan. Some highlights include:

- Problem solving services have been expanded, with grants averaging \$2500 per household
- Problem solving plus rolled out for SIP guests (encumbered and in contract)
- As well, the department is building capacity among frontline service providers and expanding workforce development component to problem solving.
- \$6 million in shallow subsidies has been contracted to stabilize tenants in PSH.
- Investments in workforce development system: \$4.4 million over 2 years to serve all populations. Planning with OEWD and homeless workforce collaborative on program design, which will be available before the end of the fiscal year.
- MOHCD is in contract with providers to scale up existing strategies, including eviction prevention, tenant right to counsel, tenant counseling and outreach to ELI and VLI tenants as well as a mediation partnership with Bar Association of SF and targeted homelessness prevention approach to flex funds.
- In the coming days, MOHCD will enter rental subsidy program contracts this week.
- MOHCD is in the stakeholder engagement phase of program development for a program that will promote housing retention in City subsidized housing, especially PSH. They anticipate that this program will be in contract later this fiscal year.

Discussed

- MOHCD is working closely with state funding agencies to ensure the most vulnerable tenants are served quickly. Often this involves using local funding sources, including some OCOH Fund dollars.
- Departments talked about looking for creative ways to use one-time funds such as piloting new strategies, time limited TAY investments and leadership, training for staff.
- Problem Solving investments for veterans will be provided by Swords to Plowshares. Problem solving for justice involved adults are in the community planning phase and will be moving to contract solicitation soon.

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- Direct cash transfers for youth program is in the design/stakeholder engagement phase of the program development process. There is state funding for emancipated foster youth. HSH is aiming to use OCOH Fund to leverage additional state funds for the program.
- There have been challenges. Targeting workforce to SIP clients hasn't been successful. Also, some one-time money was allocated to ongoing subsidy, which isn't sustainable.
- DPH behavioral health funding is in a stakeholder engagement process and developing staffing patterns. Will be working to balance city and CBO providers.

Revenue weakness:

- The revenue weakness translates to \$4.7 million budget shortfall in the current year. The shortfall was managed without impact to implementation.

Next Steps:

- Outcomes