

Our City, Our Home Fund
Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Partnership Meeting
March 17, 2022

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

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Addressing the revenue shortfall in this year, next year, and beyond
 - Funds that were not programmed for FY22 during last year's budget process will save programs in the prevention category from having to cut back. Implementation will move forward as planned.
 - Holding some funds in reserve is common in specialized funds like OCOH. A reserve would protect OCOH funded programs by providing a financial cushion to offset revenue shortfalls, like those experienced by the OCOH Fund this year.
 - Controller's Office is developing a policy. Some features of that policy are:
 - NO CUTS TO PROGRAMS to fund the reserve.
 - Reserve would be filled with unspent fund balances at the end of the fiscal year or with surplus revenue. Remembering the grey colored Estimated Fund Balances in the OCOH spending presentation that the Controller's Office delivered on February 24 ([beginning at slide 11 of this deck](#)).
 - A reserve could have a cap on the amount of funds that could be held in reserve. *Note: at 3/24 OCOH Oversight Meeting the Controller's Budget Analysis Division suggested 10-20% of budget in each fund category based on research into best practices.*
 - The Reserve would be built over the course of several budget cycles- with each OCOH Fund category adding to the reserve as they are able at year end or with surplus.
 - There will be no requirement to fund the reserve by a certain date.
3. OCOH Fund Budget: What's changing, what's staying the same?
 - Noted that one-time funding in Prevention lead to piloting several new strategies. HSH would like to develop ongoing support to these programs.
 - Homeless prevention and financial assistance was more costly than anticipated: \$20m this year, \$29m next year plus a cost of doing business
 - How is implementation of prevention-funded behavioral health in PSH being divided across CBOs and City staff? In response to provider input, DPH is hiring medical staff, and contracting with CBOs for case management, etc.
 - Shallow subsidies (problem solving plus) have not been easy to implement and are an obvious place to look when rebalancing.
 - Pilot of direct cash transfer to youth is in implementation.

OCOH Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Liaison/Department Meeting

- Last year's recommendation to explore short term shallow subsidies for adults/veterans, has been directed into problem solving and workforce development
- Interest in longer term shallow subsidy? MOHCD used OCOH \$\$ to create a Homelessness Prevention and Anti-Displacement program that will be operated by Eviction Defense Collaborative and its community-based subcontractors. Program design is being finalized and will be launched in the next few months.
- Also \$2m for shallow subsidies for SRO families added to ongoing work that is administered by Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC)
- HSH and DPH are planning a learning collaborative as part of developing a prevention system.

4. Next Steps

- a. March 21 OCOH Special Meeting will focus on the Inventory Gaps Analysis section of the OCOH Needs Assessment
- b. March 24th OCOH Oversight Committee's regular meeting will provide revenue collection and projections, reserve strategy, and budget proposals from departments.