



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 5, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration, Housing & Human Services Division, Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Casa Esperanza Shelter Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Community Development Director to execute an Agreement with Casa Esperanza for the operation of a homeless shelter for \$202,100.

DISCUSSION:

Due to ongoing financial challenges, Casa Esperanza has undergone several programmatic and administrative changes during the past year. On September 17, 2013, Casa Esperanza closed its drop-in Day Center services for non-shelter residents and suspended the Community Kitchen lunch program for non-shelter residents. They currently operate a sobriety-based shelter program for their 100-bed year-round shelter program (April – November), which expands to a 200-bed emergency winter shelter (December – March). In March 2014, the top two management positions at Casa Esperanza were laid off. Since that time, the shelter has been operating with a volunteer director.

In addition to the Community Development Block Grant and Human Services grants awarded to Casa Esperanza, the City contributes an annual allocation of General Fund monies to help support the emergency winter shelter (\$77,100 for Fiscal Year 2015).

During the City's Fiscal Year 2015 budget approval process, City Council approved an additional \$125,000 in General Fund support for the operation of their homeless shelter and related supportive services. Council authorized an initial disbursement totaling \$60,000, with the balance to be disbursed upon completion of an operational review conducted by the City of Santa Barbara and the County of Santa Barbara.

This agreement, totaling \$202,100, combines the \$77,100 winter shelter funding and the additional \$125,000 approved by Council.

A copy of the agreement is available in the City Clerk's office for public review and in the Council reading file for review by the Mayor and Councilmembers.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Both the winter shelter and additional funding are included in the Fiscal Year 2015 General Fund budget.

PREPARED BY: Sue Gray, Community Development Business Manager

SUBMITTED BY: George Buell, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office