



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 27, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

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

SUBJECT: Central Coast Collaborative On Homelessness (C3H) Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Community Development Director to execute a funding agreement for \$91,232 with the Northern Santa Barbara County United Way for the Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness (C3H) effort.

DISCUSSION:

The Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness (C3H) has been in operation since October 2012, and this is the fourth year the City has contributed General Fund support. Ten sponsors are now contributing funding to support the structure of C3H, whose purpose is to foster collaboration and sharing of resources in order to: prevent homelessness; support the expansion of housing for the homeless; build a results- and data-driven culture; elevate community dialogue, support, and collaboration regarding homelessness; and encourage commitment to self-sufficiency. Council authorized a City of Santa Barbara contribution of \$91,232 for Fiscal Year 2016.

Fiscal Year 2016 sponsors:

City of Santa Barbara	\$91,232
County of Santa Barbara	\$90,000
Cottage Hospital	\$75,000
Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara	\$25,000
Marian Medical Center	\$25,000
City of Lompoc	\$16,000
City of Santa Maria	\$12,000
Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara	\$5,000
City of Goleta	\$5,000
City of Carpinteria	\$2,500
City of Buellton	\$550
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	\$347,282

The C3H budget includes two full-time employees (one position is currently vacant) and one part-time employee. The Northern Santa Barbara County United Way organization administers finances on behalf of C3H. Goals for Fiscal Year 2016 include: integrate data on people experiencing homelessness; determine the actual cost of homelessness and the benefits of housing people; work on a coordinated entry approach with service providers; oversee and administer the implementation of data-driven, evidence-based solutions to homelessness in partnership with service providers, businesses, and community leaders; and become the community's resource for solutions to homelessness.

Significant accomplishments made by C3H during the past year include:

- **Coordination of Point in Time Count (PIT) and Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)**

The 2015 PIT Count was conducted on January 28 and 29, 2015. The VI-SPDAT, which assists providers in quickly assessing the health and social needs of homeless persons, was utilized during the count. Of the 893 persons encountered in the City of Santa Barbara, 585 VI-SPDATs were completed. One of the advantages of the VI-SPDAT is that it gives service providers a much better idea of who is homeless and which support and housing interventions are most appropriate for each individual. Overall, there were 53 fewer people counted in the City in 2015 compared to the prior count in 2013. This indicates a 5.6% decrease, compared to a countywide decrease of only .75%. However, the majority of persons experiencing homelessness countywide are still located in the City of Santa Barbara (61.3%).

- **Regional Coordination**

C3H has been instrumental in the formation of seven regional coordination meetings. The groups meet monthly in Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Goleta, Isla Vista, Santa Ynez Valley, Lompoc, and Santa Maria. Membership in each area varies, but most include C3H staff, Common Ground staff and volunteers, faith community representatives, service and housing providers, law enforcement, and peer navigators. The City of Santa Barbara group also includes representatives from Parks & Recreation and the Library. Each regional coordination committee sets its own goals and deliverables to meet the unique needs of each community. The City of Santa Barbara group is focused on the Milpas and Downtown projects, landlord outreach, and food provision at Alameda Park.

- **Housing Placement Tracking**

Housing placements have been tracked countywide since May 2013. From July 2014 to June 2015, a total of 187 housing placements were made in the City of Santa Barbara, totaling 306 individuals. Of these, 104 were vulnerable individuals per the Vulnerability Index, 40 were Veterans, and 101 were children. Another 14 individuals were reunified with family and/or employment.

It is important to note that C3H did not directly house these individuals as C3H is not a direct service provider. These placements are reported from service and housing providers on a monthly basis, and the report serves as the City's first unduplicated report of housing placements. Full data integration will allow for more detailed information regarding persons experiencing homelessness and retention of those who have obtained housing.

- **Outreach Programs**

C3H worked with the Milpas Action Task Force to form the Milpas Outreach Project. This project has housed 9 of the most vulnerable and/or nuisance-causing individuals on Milpas Street, which were identified by merchants and the Restorative Policing Program. Considerable effort is now focused on ensuring that these people remain housed. In addition, there are 7 individuals that the group is actively working with to obtain housing.

In January 2015, the Milpas Project was expanded to the downtown area of Santa Barbara. The Downtown Organization identified 8 individuals, and 2 have been housed to date. Housing the individuals on this list is especially challenging because most need "Housing First," and Santa Barbara has not established any true Housing First units. Housing First is a model that lowers the barriers to housing and allows people to be immediately housed with intensive supportive services.

- **Increased C3H Sponsors**

The Fiscal Year 2016 C3H budget includes the addition of sponsors from two entities: City of Lompoc and Marian Medical Center. In addition, the cities of Buellton, Goleta, and Carpinteria have all increased their funding support based upon their fair share, as reflected in the most recent point-in-time count. Ongoing, secure funding from each sponsor entity is vital in order to support the backbone structure of C3H.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

City funds for this effort were authorized as part of the City's Fiscal Year 2016 budget, and staff is recommending that Council formally commit the funds and approve the Agreement with the Northern Santa Barbara County United Way.

A copy of the Agreement is available in the City Clerk's office for public review.

PREPARED BY: Sue Gray, Community Development Business Manager

SUBMITTED BY: George R. Buell, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office