



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 23, 2016

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

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

SUBJECT: El Niño Homeless Day Center Funding Request

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council allocate \$30,000 from the General Fund appropriated reserves to the Community Development Department to reimburse the County of Santa Barbara for one-half of the costs associated with the provision of El Niño Homeless Day Center services between February 1 and April 30, 2016.

DISCUSSION:

Due to the predicted El Niño season this winter, the Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness (C3H) determined that there was a need for shelter for people experiencing homelessness during days of rain or cold. The City of Santa Barbara and the County of Santa Barbara currently provide funding to the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara (USSB) to operate the Freedom Warming Centers Program (Warming Centers), which provides basic shelter for homeless people from extreme weather overnight.

People experiencing homelessness who find shelter at night through the Warming Center program must vacate the site at 6:00 a.m., rain or shine, due to daytime programming at the church locations. During a heavy or extended rain event, these people have no place to go during the day. Lack of day shelter during rain or cold weather may cause or exacerbate existing medical or behavioral health conditions. When the homeless do not find shelter, they may risk death, suffer due to illness or hypothermia, often seek shelter at public places (including libraries and businesses), and may end up in the emergency room, jail or in some cases, death may result.

A survey of partner agencies indicated that homeless shelter providers do not have the capacity to meet this need by serving additional clients at their respective shelter locations during the day. Therefore, Supervisors Farr and Lavagnino requested funding from the Board of Supervisors to establish a temporary, intermittent daytime shelter program during extreme weather events.

On January 19, 2016, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an appropriation of \$91,000 of General Fund monies to establish two new temporary daytime shelter programs, one in South County and one in North County, on an as-needed basis, from February 1 through April 30, 2016. The Board of Supervisors directed County staff to approach the cities to help offset the costs associated with the Day Centers.

If needed, the South County Day Shelter will be located at Earl Warren Showgrounds and will be staffed by USSB. Central Coastal Collaboration on Homelessness is providing coordination of the program at no additional cost. The shelter will operate from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. based on the rain and weather conditions described below:

1. A day temperature of 35 degrees or less is predicted; and/or
2. There is a greater than 50 percent chance of rain predicted for one day.

It is anticipated that 50-150 individuals may seek shelter at each location per activation, depending on the severity and length of each storm. Easy Lift Transportation has agreed to provide transportation, at no cost, to and from the Warming Center locations, Santa Barbara shelters, and the downtown library.

The Day Shelter program will offer a warm, dry, and safe space and a meal for homeless individuals, and it may include existing homeless outreach services from County Departments such as County Department of Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, and/or services from community organizations such as Common Ground. Similar to the current Freedom Warming Centers program, alcohol and drugs will be prohibited on the premises, and clients will agree to abide by basic ground rules.

The cost to run the South County Day Center is approximately \$1,800 per activation day and includes four staff at 7 hours each (12-hour operating period plus 1 hour opening and 1 hour closing), one security guard (only if needed), supplies, food, leasing, and a USSB administrative fee as shown on the attached budget. It is estimated that there will be 35 daytime activations between February 1 and April 30, 2016 which cost approximately \$64,000.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Staff recommends that the City appropriate General Funds to reimburse the County for one-half of the actual costs to operate the Day Center, up to \$30,000 maximum.

ATTACHMENT: El Niño Day Center Budget

PREPARED BY: Sue Gray, Community Development Business Manager

SUBMITTED BY: George Buell, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office

Provider: Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
Region: South County

Category	Cost Per Activation	# Days	Total	Comments
Staff	\$ 476.00	35	\$ 16,660.00	4 staff members @ \$17 per hr x 7 hours per day each
Security Guard	\$ 308.00	35	\$ 10,780.00	Only As Needed
Staff Training	\$ -	1	\$ 544.00	8 staff members @ \$17 per hour x 4 hours
Coordination	\$ -	35	\$ -	Provided in-kind by C3H staff
Transportation	\$ -	35	\$ -	Provided in-kind by Easy Lift
Supplies	\$ 30.00	35	\$ 1,050.00	Based on initial estimated costs (@ 34 days)
Food	\$ 400.00	35	\$ 14,000.00	
Leasing	\$ 440.00	35	\$ 15,400.00	
Subtotal	\$ 1,654.00		\$ 58,434.00	
Administrative Fee	\$ 165.40	35	\$ 5,843.40	10% of Subtotal
Total	\$ 1,819.40		\$ 64,277.40	