

CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall
2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

6:00 PM – Special Meeting
American River Community Room North

AGENDA

1. SPECIAL MEETING - CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Council Members Budge, Gatewood, Sander, Terry and Mayor McGarvey.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

At a special meeting, citizens wishing to address the Council for any matter on the agenda may do so at the time the matter is discussed. Under the provisions of the California Government Code, the City Council is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not on the agenda.

3. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM

3.1 **Subject:** Consideration of Adoption of a Resolution Declaring a Shelter Crisis.

Recommendation: Consider Adoption of a Resolution Declaring a Shelter Crisis Pursuant to Senate Bill 850 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2018 and Government Code Section 8698.2) as Required in Order to Benefit from State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Funds Allocated to Sacramento Steps Forward, the Sacramento County Continuum of Care Administering Entity.

Result of Recommended Action: Approval of the Resolution Declaring a Shelter Crisis Pursuant to Senate Bill 850 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2018 and Government Code Section 8698.2) will make the City of Rancho Cordova Eligible to Benefit from HEAP Funds Allocated to Sacramento Steps Forward, the Sacramento County Continuum of Care Administering Entity.

Staff Report: Stefan Heisler, Reinvestment Analyst.

Advances Goals: 2 and 5.

4. ADJOURNMENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (916) 851-8720 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

I, Stacy Leitner, City Clerk for the City of Rancho Cordova, declare that the foregoing agenda for the Wednesday, December 19, 2018 Special Meeting of the Rancho Cordova City Council was posted and available for review on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at City Hall of the City of Rancho Cordova, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, California, 95670. The agenda is also available on the city website at www.cityofranchocordova.org.

Signed Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at Rancho Cordova, California.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacy Leitner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Stacy Leitner, City Clerk

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 19, 2018

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Stefan Heisler, Reinvestment Analyst

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING A SHELTER CRISIS



RECOMMENDATION

Consider adoption of a Resolution declaring a shelter crisis pursuant to Senate Bill 850 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2018 and Government Code Section 8698.2) as required in order to benefit from State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds allocated to Sacramento Steps Forward, the Sacramento County Continuum of Care Administering Entity.

RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the Resolution declaring a shelter crisis pursuant to Senate Bill 850 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2018 and Government Code Section 8698.2) will make the City of Rancho Cordova eligible to benefit from HEAP funds allocated to Sacramento Steps Forward, the Sacramento County Continuum of Care Administering Entity.

SUMMARY

Despite the continued success of the City's innovative Navigator Program, homelessness remains a challenge, and is affecting communities throughout the State of California. HEAP is a substantial new state funding program that offers a block grant to develop and implement programs that reflect the needs of the community. Sacramento County's Continuum of Care entity, the nonprofit Sacramento Steps Forward, stands to receive \$12.7 million in HEAP funding.

Although HEAP funds can be utilized for a variety of homelessness-related relief, the local HEAP funding proposal for Sacramento Steps Forward includes two primary investment priorities: 1) expanding emergency shelters, and 2) flexible rehousing program.

The first component includes funding expanded emergency shelter services using Sacramento County's successful scattered-site shelter model. The scattered-site shelter model utilizes currently vacant properties to house individuals in need of shelter. Each house has 24-hour in-house monitoring. Given the unique challenges of a suburban community, Rancho Cordova staff supports Sacramento County's service-based scattered-site model, as opposed to a facility-based shelter traditionally found in urban municipalities. Sacramento County does not plan to develop a new, large-scale shelter as part of this program.

The second component of the local HEAP proposal is funding a flexible housing pool to be administered by the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance (DHA). The program creates new housing opportunities for unsheltered clients engaged in homeless outreach and navigation programs, such as the Rancho Cordova Navigator Program. The pool will provide individualized practical help with case management and outreach services; rental assistance; legal services; crisis intervention; and other services to transition participants from the streets to permanent housing.

To be eligible for such HEAP funding, the state has enacted a requirement that all cities and counties must adopt a shelter crisis resolution with specific language, pursuant to Senate Bill 850 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2018 and Government Code Section 8698.2). While Rancho Cordova is not a direct recipient of funding, regionally funded programs will only be available to people experiencing homelessness in jurisdictions that have declared a shelter crisis. If Rancho Cordova declares a shelter crisis, HEAP funds would serve as another tool to complement the existing Navigator Program. If Rancho Cordova does not declare a shelter crisis, regional programs funded with HEAP would not be available to people experiencing homelessness in Rancho Cordova.

In order to allow HEAP funds to be spent in Rancho Cordova, staff recommends adopting a resolution declaring a shelter crisis. These funds could directly benefit the most vulnerable of the City's homeless population, and the regional collaboration that they represent has the potential to have an impact far longer than the three-year expenditure timeframe.

Staff recommends the City Council consider adoption of Resolution No. XXX-2018, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova, California, declaring a shelter crisis pursuant to Senate Bill 850 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2018 and Government Code Section 8698.2).

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

In June 2018, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 850, which allocated \$500 million in one-time state funding to a new program known as the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP). The goal of HEAP is to provide funding to Continuum of Care entities and 11 large cities so that they can quickly and efficiently increase emergency homeless services.

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. CoCs are responsible for tracking and managing the homeless community in its area. One of most important activities entrusted to CoCs is the biannual count of the homeless population and an annual enumeration of emergency systems, transitional housing units, and beds that make up the homeless assistance systems. The CoC also manages these services, offering both prevention strategies and homeless assistance programs to assist those at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Proposed HEAP Programs

Eligible uses of HEAP funding include small and large-scale shelters, outreach and navigation services, permanent supportive housing, and criminal justice diversion. Funds must be focused on activities that can be implemented quickly, as the HEAP expenditure deadline is June 2021.

Since Senate Bill 850 was signed, the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, and Sacramento Steps Forward have been working collaboratively on identifying the best uses of HEAP funding. To this end, a number of public input sessions have been held in recent months to solicit feedback from community stakeholders. Rancho Cordova staff participated in several of these meetings.

Given the short timeframe for expenditure and the limited administrative funding, two major categories of expenditures are proposed:

- *Expanding emergency shelters.* Most of the funding for emergency shelters is funding directed to the City of Sacramento (\$5.3 million). A smaller amount of funding (\$3.4 million) in this category is targeted for expansion of existing family shelters and add additional scattered-site shelters, similar to those currently operated by Sacramento Self-Help Housing. There will be no walk-up to the services; rather, county staff will work with partners, such as the Rancho Cordova Navigator, to identify and engage shelter participants. Sacramento County plans to add an additional seven family shelter units and eight scattered-site shelters.

The scattered-site shelter model utilizes currently vacant properties to house individuals in need of shelter. Each house has 24-hour in-house monitoring. Given the unique challenges of a suburban community, Rancho Cordova staff supports Sacramento County's service-based scattered-site model, as opposed to a facility-based shelter traditionally found in urban municipalities.

- *Flexible Rehousing Program.* The focus of this program is providing limited-term rental subsidy (up to 24 months) and intensive case management to homeless households while they pursue long-term housing resources, such as a Section 8 voucher or permanent supportive housing placement. Sacramento County anticipates about 600 households will be served, using about \$8.6 million in HEAP funding.

On September 12, the Continuum of Care Advisory Board approved the investment plan for HEAP funding outlined above.

Shelter Crisis Declaration

To receive HEAP funding, California statute requires the jurisdiction(s) "that the administrative entity represents" declare a shelter crisis pursuant to State law (commencing with Government Code Section 8698) by the time funding is awarded, a date that is anticipated to be no later than December 31, 2018. In order to allow Rancho Cordova homeless residents to have access to the services provided by HEAP, the City would need to declare a shelter crisis by December 31, 2018. This is a hard deadline and there will be no opportunity for a later opt-in.

Declaring a shelter crisis offers several benefits:

- *Increased access to services.* The City's homeless residents will have access to HEAP-funded services, including intensive case management, and can be potentially re-housed in Rancho Cordova. In particular, the Flexible Rehousing Program will focus on moving homeless individuals or families from outdoor camps and cars to temporary shelter and then to permanent housing.

- *Regional collaboration.* Homelessness is a regional problem, and regional partnerships are needed to make meaningful progress on this issue. HEAP offers a unique opportunity for the broader Sacramento community to collaborate and implement a true community-wide response to homelessness. Rancho Cordova staff is active within the local CoC and has a seat on the Sacramento Steps Forward Continuum of Care Advisory Board. In addition, Rancho Cordova staff will participate in a Funder's Collaborative to coordinate oversight and implementation of the HEAP programs with staff from participating agencies.
- *Limited timeframe.* Time-limited shelter crisis declarations are acceptable. For instance, Sacramento County and the City of Elk Grove made declaration for a one-year period. On the other hand, the City of Sacramento and City of Citrus Heights made a declaration for a three-month period. The Rancho Cordova City Council could make a similar time-limited declaration, and could then evaluate the reaped benefits and any unintended consequences.

Declaring a shelter crisis also allows jurisdictions to house homeless persons in designated public facilities, and reduces building standard requirements for such facilities in the event that strict building code compliance would hinder mitigation of the shelter crisis. This reduction in building standards would potentially benefit public agencies that a) own underutilized properties, and b) wish to operate a homeless shelter. The City of Rancho Cordova currently does not have underutilized properties that would be good candidates for temporary shelter. Additionally, Sacramento County does not plan to develop any new large-scale shelters.

It is possible that declaring the shelter crisis may not provide a meaningful benefit. Declaring a crisis means the City's homeless residents would have access to HEAP-funded programs, and the City's Navigator would be able to refer clients into those programs. However, there is no guaranteed funding for Rancho Cordova's homeless residents, and they would be competing with Sacramento City, Sacramento County, City of Elk Grove, and City of Citrus Heights residents for access. Further, there is uncertainty whether or not the state would enact future legislation related to municipalities that have adopted a shelter crisis declaration.

The following agencies in the local CoC have adopted shelter crisis resolutions: Sacramento County (October 16), City of Sacramento (November 8), City of Elk Grove (November 14), and City of Citrus Heights (December 11). The City of Folsom does not plan to declare a shelter crisis.

The City of Sacramento and Citrus Heights have included a three month sunset period within their declarations in order to meet the State statute requirements of having a crisis declaration in effect at the time of the HEAP funding award, with an option to revisit and extend the declaration if necessary. This award is estimated to be received before the end of March, 2019. However, the sunset clause deviates from the recommended resolution provided by the State, and therefore, including such language could jeopardize the City's HEAP eligibility.

Alternative Actions

In short, if the City adopts a shelter crisis resolution, HEAP funds could potentially be spent in Rancho Cordova. This means that Rancho Cordova's homeless residents could be housed locally, although the realities of the rental market make it likely that some will be housed elsewhere.

The alternative to declaring a shelter crisis is to do nothing. Not declaring a shelter crisis would prohibit HEAP funds from being spent in Rancho Cordova or for the benefit of Rancho Cordova's homeless population. While not participating in HEAP would ensure that no homeless person from declaring jurisdictions is housed in Rancho Cordova with HEAP funds, it also permanently shuts the door on a useful tool to address particularly the most challenged among the City's homeless population.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no anticipated direct fiscal impact to declaring a shelter crisis. While the declaration will allow funding to be spent for the benefit of Rancho Cordova homeless residents, funding will flow through Sacramento Steps Forward, and its subcontractors. No funding will be directly received by the City of Rancho Cordova.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Resolution

CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA

RESOLUTION NO. XXX-2018

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DECLARING A SHELTER CRISIS PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 850 (CHAPTER 48, STATUTES OF 2018 AND GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 8698.2)

WHEREAS, California's Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and the members of the California Legislature have recognized the urgent and immediate needs for funding at the local level to combat homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature have provided funding to local governments under the Homeless Emergency Aid Program as part of Senate Bill 850 and the 2018-19 Budget Act (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2018); and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature require jurisdictions seeking an allocation through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program to declare a Shelter Crisis pursuant to Government Code Section 8698.2; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rancho Cordova ("City") has developed a homeless plan and undertaken multiple efforts at the local level to combat homelessness and actively participates in regional efforts to develop plans to address homelessness, including in coordination with Sacramento County and Sacramento Steps Forward; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that there are approximately 212 person identified as homeless and living without shelter within the City of Rancho Cordova (according to the 2017 Point-in-Time Count); and

WHEREAS, the City finds that the number of homeless is significant, and these persons are without the ability to obtain shelter; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that the health and safety of unsheltered persons in the City of Rancho Cordova is threatened by a lack of shelter; and

WHEREAS, the City affirms the City of Rancho Cordova's commitment to combatting homelessness and creating or augmenting a continuum of shelter and service options for those living without shelter in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA that a shelter crisis pursuant to Government Code Section 8698.2 exists in the City of Rancho Cordova and hereby authorizes the City's participation in the Homeless Emergency Aid Program. This declaration shall automatically expire three months after its adoption unless terminated earlier or extended by the City Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova at the meeting of the said City Council on the 19th day of December, 2018 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Robert McGarvey, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacy Leitner, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Adam U. Lindgren, City Attorney

City of Rancho Cordova

CA State Homeless Emergency Aid Program Update

December 17, 2020

Background

- § SB 850
 - § Allocated \$500 million to create a Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)
- § Funding provided to 11 large cities and local Continuums of Care (CoCs)
- § \$12.7 million to Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF)
 - § Additional \$5.6 million to City of Sacramento
- § In order to access HEAP-funded programs, jurisdictions must declare a shelter crisis **by December 31, 2018**

HEAP Program Components

4 million to expand emergency shelters
Increase capacity within existing county shelters
Increase number of scattered shelter sites

6 million to flexible rehousing program
Rent subsidies (up to 24 months)
Intensive “whatever it takes” case management
Legal services

Programs accessed by Navigator referral only
Services may be provided outside of Rancho Cordova

Pros and Cons for declaring a Shelter Crisis

Access to HEAP-funded services
Additional tool for the City's
Homeless Navigator
Promotes regional collaboration
Limited timeframe permitted for
Declaration

Cons:

- § May limit current policies and procedures with respect to homelessness
- § Potentially small number of residents experiencing homelessness that will benefit

Participating Jurisdictions

Unincorporated Sacramento County

City of Sacramento

City of Elk Grove

City of Citrus Heights

THANK YOU

Questions or Comments

2017 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

Area	2017 PIT Count	Homeless Proportion
Citrus Heights	239	8%
Elk Grove	40	1%
Folsom	122	4%
Galt	5	0%
Isleton	5	0%
Rancho Cordova	212	7%
Sacramento	1,779	61%
Unincorporated	532	38%
TOTAL	2,934	100%

Shelter Crisis Resolution

Shelter crisis declaration must include the following findings:

1. A significant number of persons within the city are without the ability to obtain shelter.
2. The situation has resulted in a threat to the health and safety of those persons.

Continuum of Care

Sacramento Steps Forward

- § Continuum of Care (CoC) for Sacramento County
- § Manage federally-funded housing and service programs for those experiencing homelessness
- § Track available beds through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Regional Collaboration



