



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 1, 2016

TO: Carolyn Lehr, City Manager

FROM: Charles S. Bryant, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Understanding With The City Of Oakland For The Operation Of A Winter Shelter In The City Of Oakland For The Accommodation Of Up To 75 Persons For The Period November 14, 2016 Through April 17, 2017 In An Amount Not To Exceed \$30,000

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Oakland for the operation of a winter shelter in the City of Oakland for the accommodation of up to 75 persons for the period of November 14, 2016 through April 17, 2017 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

BACKGROUND

Between 1999 and 2012, the Cities of Oakland and Berkeley and the County of Alameda jointly funded the operation of a regional winter shelter at the Oakland Army Base. The 100 bed congregate shelter for single men and women primarily provided compassionate refuge from inclement weather between November and April of each year, with minimal social services on-site due to budget constraints. In 2013, the Oakland Army Base site was no longer available due to development.

For the 2013-2014 winter season, the three partnering jurisdictions coordinated a temporary expansion of the number of shelter beds at several existing shelter sites, and added a small re-housing component to the program. Rapid Re-Housing Funds were used to move people into rental housing and provide rent subsidies for approximately six months (but up to 24 months) while case managers worked with the household to become more self-sufficient. This strategy resulted in reduced overall bed capacity, some facility management and coordination challenges, and no significant changes in overall program outcomes.

For the 2014-2015 season, a regional response effort was developed that included contributions from the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland as well as Alameda County. The 2014-2015 effort focused on: 1) reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness that were sleeping in places not meant for human habitation during inclement weather by opening a warming center and increasing bed capacity during inclement weather; and 2) increasing the number of individuals with long histories of homelessness and significant health care needs that obtain permanent housing through the expansion of an existing Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) program operated by Bay Area Community Services (BACS) focused on helping high needs individuals experiencing homelessness obtain permanent housing with an average of six months of post-housing aftercare.

For the 2015-2016 season, the jurisdictions and providers met in August 2015 and the following plan was developed:

- Identify a single location in Oakland for a winter-specific shelter that has low barriers to entry for homeless individuals with long histories of homelessness and disabilities;
- Identify a service-rich secondary site for persons identified as being most vulnerable;
- Continue to support increased coordination among outreach efforts, service programs, and housing;
- Continue to support housing navigation programs for high need individuals;
- Continue to find ways to leverage federal Medicaid dollars to help fund supportive services associated with addressing homelessness and housing issues

The 2015-2016 north county winter shelter strategy provided a single site seasonal shelter initially accommodating 50 single adults and with additional City of Oakland funds, 100 single adults. It included a service-rich secondary site accommodating no more than 10 beds for persons who were identified as most vulnerable. This strategy provided a hybrid of the previous 'single site' model which was utilized at the Army Base shelter but closed in 2013, as well as continuing the more targeted intervention for the most vulnerable persons utilized in the winter of 2014-2015.

The City of Oakland identified the St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) facility at 2272 San Pablo Avenue as a location and provider for 50, and later 100, winter shelter beds that were available each night from 6 pm to 8 am.

Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) identified the Henry Robinson Multi-Service Center at 559 16th Street for the service-rich secondary site with a 10-bed shelter for medically fragile people experiencing homelessness.

In 2015, the City of Emeryville entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to fund five shelter beds reserved for people experiencing homelessness in Emeryville. The City's outreach provider, Berkeley Food and Housing Project, referred people to those beds. During the operation of the winter shelter, twenty individuals who identified

as experiencing homelessness in Emeryville utilized the shelter. Seventeen of those people were Extremely Low Income, earning between \$0 and approximately \$20,000 per year and three were Very Low Income, earning between approximately \$20,000 and \$35,000 per year. Outcomes for the Emeryville shelter population include 8 people exiting to another shelter, 2 people exiting to transitional housing and 10 people unsheltered. The Emeryville Client Outcomes for the 2015/2016 Winter Shelter can be found as Attachment 1.

ANALYSIS

2016-2017 Plans and Recommendations

Winter Shelter

After discussions with jurisdictional partners and evaluation of the 2015-2016 efforts, a regional strategy has been developed. The basic tenets for the 2016-2017 Winter Shelter Strategy are similar to the 2015-2016 strategy and are as follows:

Large Single Site Winter Shelter

Traditional winter shelter beds will be available at SVdP located at 2272 San Pablo Avenue in Oakland. This location will have two large rooms to serve a total of 75+ single adults, both male and female. The SVdP proposed Winter Shelter hours will be from 6 p.m. through 8 a.m. The beds will be accessible to participants through a referral process from various homeless serving agencies. In addition, a number of beds will remain unassigned to ensure accessibility on a walk-up, first-come first-served basis. In addition to the Winter Shelter, SVdP offers programs and assistance to help homeless participants with steps toward stability through its regular programming.

Specialized Populations

Vulnerable Beds Shelter - Up to 10 beds will be available at the Henry Robinson Multi Services Center located at 559 16th Street in Oakland. BACS is the operator and will provide emergency shelter and case management services for up to ten persons identified to be most vulnerable using an industry standard vulnerability assessment tool. The BACS case manager will complete vulnerability screenings as part of the case management services at SVdP and make referrals accordingly. The vulnerable beds will be available every night during the winter season from early evening to the following morning

Senior Shelter - Up to 25 beds will be available at St. Mary's Center located at 925 Brockhurst Street, Oakland. St. Mary's Center will provide 25 emergency winter shelter beds exclusively for seniors aged 55+. Seniors, who often avoid shelters that are full of younger people and opt to sleep out on the street are particularly at risk in the wintertime during inclement weather, and are especially vulnerable to exposure and other health problems. As part of St. Mary's existing programming, winter shelter

participants will be able to engage in case management and on-site services such as health assessments, mental health services, recovery programs, and healthy meals.

Youth Shelter - Up to five additional beds will be available for at risk homeless youth between the ages of 18 through 24 at Covenant House, located at 200 Harrison Street, Oakland. Currently, Covenant House serves a maximum of 30 youth between the ages of 18 through 24 on any given night, and has a wait list of up to 100 youth. As part of the winter relief effort, Covenant House will increase its shelter capacity by up to five additional emergency shelter beds and offer participants access to supportive staff and services in an environment that is conducive to the unique needs of homeless youth.

Housing Case Management and Rapid Rehousing Services

BACS will provide housing case management services to winter shelter participants at the main SVdP winter shelter and will coordinate with BFHP regarding Emeryville clients. BACS will engage participants in general information and referral services, provide linkages to other programs, conduct vulnerability assessments, and provide housing case management. BACS will administer rapid rehousing funds to house clients directly from winter shelter as well as to move clients from the Housing Fast Support Network (HFSN) to permanent housing, thereby opening up shelter beds for vulnerable winter shelter clients.

Oakland has requested a \$30,000 contribution from Emeryville for the operation of the expanded winter shelter. The shelter will reserve ten beds for Emeryville referrals.

As noted above, Emeryville contracts with BFHP to provide street outreach and harm reduction. BFHP will continue to coordinate with Emeryville Community Services Department, Emeryville Police Department, and homeless service providers to deliver outreach and referrals to shelters, services and providers.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City Council allocated \$30,000 for the Winter Shelter in the Two Year Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The City Attorney has reviewed and approved as to form the resolution and Memorandum of Understanding accompanying this report.

PREPARED BY: Catherine Firpo, Housing Coordinator

Chadrack Smalley, Economic Development and Housing Manager

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



Carolyn Lehr, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution
Exhibit A: Oakland/Emeryville Memorandum of Understanding
2. Emeryville Client Outcomes – Winter Shelter 2015/2016