

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

HSOC Special Meeting

December 8, 2021 11:00 a.m.

Members and the public were able to participate by Zoom call.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Anne Robin Bettina Swigger Caroline Hall Dawn Ortiz-Legg Janna Nichols Jessica Thomas Kathy McClenathen Kristen Barneich Mark Lamore Rick Gulino Shay Stewart Steve Martin Susan Funk Susan Lamont William Crewe	Amelia Grover Anna Miller Brenda Mack Carlyn Christianson Dawn Addis Devin Drake Jeff Smith Mary Ann Reiss Nicole Bennett Scott Smith	Abby Lassen Brandy Graham Carrie Collins Elizabeth Pauschek George Solis Gregory Fearon Kim Gravell Jack Lahey Jessica Lorange Joe Madsen Kelsey Nocket Kody Cava Kristin Ventresca Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Marianne Kennedy Molly Kern Riley Smith Russ Francis Sarah Sartain Suzie Freeman Tom Sherman Tony Navarro Ty Ulrey Wendy Lewis

Yael Korin
Yesenia Alonso

AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Susan Funk called the meeting to order at 11am.	
2. Administrative Action: Vote to Approve a Resolution Acknowledging Governor Newsom's Proclamation of a State of Emergency and Authorizing Meetings by Teleconference Until the HSOC's Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, as Authorized by Assembly Bill (AB) 361		Steve made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Kristen. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
3. Public Comment	<p>Jack thanked the HSOC for considering CAPSLO's (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) funding request. This funding is critical for CAPSLO to operate the 40 Prado shelter and to provide their Emergency Shelter service for the county. On average, CAPSLO has been serving 101 people per night for the last two months. COVID has had a major impact on the number of people seeking shelter.</p> <p>Wendy shared that ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) are highly reliant on the requested funding to continue carrying out their core services, and to help with the expansion they have taken on in</p>	

	<p>the past year, including having provided over 50,000 meals and 5,000 showers, and having started a laundry program for unhoused people in North County.</p> <p>Suzie shared that the Food Bank of SLO County are requesting funding for no-cook bags, which are available to those in the community who, for whatever reason, do not have access to food. The Food Bank currently distributes 2,200 no-cook bags per month for 36 different agencies. They are hoping to increase this to 2,500 per month with the requested funding.</p> <p>Janna shared that 5CHC's (5Cities Homeless Coalition) funding request is a comprehensive application to provide outreach services, a warming center, shelter activities, and case management. In 2021, 5CHC assisted 153 households with rapid rehousing, 123 families with homelessness prevention since March, and carried out 356 Coordinated Entry assessments, in addition to investing significant funds for basic and immediate needs.</p> <p>Susan Lamont shared that Lumina Alliance have applied for funding to support operating costs, utilities, food and bilingual counseling for their three shelters in the county. Over the course of a year, they serve approximately 100 adults and 80 children.</p> <p>Janna shared that the South County warming center</p>	
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	<p>opens from December 8th. Transportation will be provided in a circuit route through the South County area. Doors open at 5:30pm and close at 8pm. People are required to leave by 7am the following morning. The warming center is at 800 W. Branch St in Arroyo Grande.</p> <p>Jack shared that CAPSLO's warming center at 40 Prado also opens from December 8th, with intake starting at 6pm and ending at 9pm.</p>	
<p>4. Action/Information/Discussion</p>		
<p>4.1. Action Item: Recommend Allocation of County Community Development Block Grant Public Services funding (\$108,627), Emergency Solutions Grant (\$142,077.22), and County General Fund Support (\$253,000) for countywide Homeless Services Programs, including Warming Centers</p>	<p>Laurel and Tony provided background on the grant programs for which funding is recommended. A non-conflicted Grant Review Committee met in November to review applications and make recommendations.</p> <p>The Federal ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) program is used to support people who are homeless. There are several eligible activities under this program, including street outreach, rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, and HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). There is an allocation cap of 60% for emergency shelter and street outreach. At least 40% of ESG funds must be used for rapid rehousing. ESG recipients must match fund. Three applications were received for the ESG program, with a total request of \$252,000, which is over \$100,000 more than is available. This represents</p>	

	<p>a decrease in funding of around 5%. The Grant Review Committee felt it was important to sustain existing programs as a priority, and so recommended funding CAPSLO's 40 Prado shelter at \$85,246.52 and 5CHC's programs at \$56,830.70. This represents a decrease in funding compared to 2021. The Committee recommended that if the total ESG funding exceeds the estimated funds available, this additional funding should be split evenly between CAPSLO and 5CHC.</p> <p>CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) is primarily used to support people on low incomes. People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are eligible clients for this fund. Under CDBG regulations, only 15% of funds can be allocated for public services. The six cities in the Urban County have their own CDBG allocation, so the portion under discussion at this meeting is the County share of CDBG funding. The total request for CDBG was \$217,191, which was also more than \$100,000 more than what is available, and also represents a 5% decrease compared to last year. The Grant Review Committee again strongly favored continuation funding for existing services. The Committee recommended \$44,383.13 for CAPSLO's 40 Prado shelter, \$40,240.69 for ECHO's Navigation Center, and \$24,003.17 for 5CHC's programs. As with ESG, this represents a decrease in funding for each applicant compared to 2021. The Committee recommended that if the total CDBG funding exceeds the estimated</p>	<p>Kristen made a motion to recommend allocation of County Community Development Block Grant Public Services funding (\$108,627), Emergency Solutions Grant (\$142,077.22), and County General Fund Support (\$253,000) for countywide Homeless Services Programs, including Warming Centers, and to encourage the County to</p>
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	<p>funds available, additional funding should be given first to 5CHC, up to their total request of \$57,655; and any funding beyond this should be split equally between CAPSLO and ECHO.</p> <p>GFS (General Fund Support) comes from the County, so has fewer regulations. The largest number of applications were received for this program. The total request was \$363,700, again more than \$100,000 more than the estimated funding available. The Grant Review Committee recommended \$109,598 for CAPSLO's 40 Prado shelter, \$76,302 for ECHO's Navigation Center, \$25,100 for 5CHC's programs, and \$42,000 for Lumina's Emergency Assistance.</p> <p>The Council discussed other sources of funding to make up the \$300k shortfall for projects not recommended, and included in the motion a recommendation for the Board to expand General Fund Support.</p>	<p>expand General Fund Support by \$20,000 to include the Food Bank of San Luis Obispo County's request for funding for No-Cook Bags, and anticipate that a significantly larger request may be forthcoming through the analysis and recommendations for homeless assistance coming through the Ten-Year Planning process, seconded by Kathy. The motion passed. Dawn, Janna, Rick and Susan Lamont abstained; all other members were in favor.</p>
<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Point in Time Count 2022</p>	<p>George shared that the PIT (Point in Time) Count census count date January 26th. Volunteer recruitment is currently ongoing. The link for volunteer registration has been distributed to the full HSOC list, committees and service providers. HUD (US Department of Housing & Urban Development) recommends that all volunteers be vaccinated. Laurel asked all City representatives to ask their Cities to avoid clearing out encampments in January where it is not necessary for safety purposes. If</p>	

	encampments are cleared prior to the PIT Count, it can be more difficult to find people, resulting in an inaccurate count.	
5. Next Regular Meeting: January 19 at 1 p.m.		
6. Adjournment	Susan Funk adjourned the meeting at 12:05pm.	