



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Leslye Corsiglia
Jennifer A. Maguire

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: November 8, 2010

Approved

Date

11/18/10

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-wide
SNI AREA: NA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING A FEDERAL AWARD OF \$400,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA TO ADMINISTER THE "SKILLS TO SUCCEED" PROGRAM WITH THAT AWARD

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution to:

1. Authorize the Director of Housing to accept an earmark grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in the amount of \$400,000 for a pilot job training and employment preparation program for at-risk women incarcerated and/or recently released from jail.
2. Adopt the following Appropriation Ordinance and Funding Sources Resolution amendments in the Multi-Source Housing Fund:
 - a. Establish an appropriation to the Housing Department for the "Skills to Succeed" project in the amount of \$200,000.
 - b. Increase the estimate for Earned Revenue by \$200,000.
3. Authorize the Director of Housing to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Santa Clara for its Office of Women's Policy to implement the "Skills to Succeed" program for 50 at-risk women with the proceeds from the DOJ grant.

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OUTCOME

A one-year pilot program will demonstrate the best approach to provide incarcerated women and/or recently released (ex-offender) women with a re-entry plan and support to transition back into the community, become self-sufficient, gainfully employed, and stabilized in housing upon release in order to break the cycle of recidivism and avoid homelessness.

BACKGROUND

On September 9, 2003, the City Council adopted a ten-year strategy to end chronic homelessness in San José. The Strategy provided a number of recommendations designed to improve the current homeless services delivery system. In 2007, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Ending Homelessness and Solving the Affordable Housing Crisis (BRC), co-chaired by San José Mayor Reed and Santa Clara County Supervisor Gage, was created to provide a community leadership group to recommend direction and support for a comprehensive approach to ending chronic homelessness in ten years. As a result, one of the recommendations identified as a priority was Discharge Planning for people being released from local correctional facilities and hospitals.

A direct outgrowth of the Blue Ribbon Commission was the formation of Destination: Home, a partnership of public agencies and private companies to carry out the Commission's plan. The City and the County are the two most prominent public agencies in this partnership.

In 2008, Santa Clara County completed an initiative titled "The Women's Advocacy Initiative," a comprehensive gender analysis of jail programs and services for female offenders in Santa Clara County. In the accompanying study *Breaking Cycles, Rebuilding Lives*, women reported that the following programs and services are needed to help them successfully transition from jail into the community: job skills, employment and housing assistance.

The "Skills to Succeed" pilot program described below is the result of discussions between the City and the County on ways of ending homelessness in Silicon Valley and reducing the recidivism rate in the County jail system.

On September 20, 2010, the Department of Justice announced a \$400,000 earmark grant award to the City of San Jose. The funds are available from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

ANALYSIS

In Santa Clara County, it costs an estimated \$42,000 to incarcerate a woman for one year. Incarcerated women tend to be low-level offenders who are young, single heads of household with children under five years of age. These women cycle in and out of jail with the effect of their incarceration being felt by their children, resulting in short- and long-term negative outcomes. Many of the women are at an increased risk of losing their children to the child welfare system. Without some intervention, the cycle of incarceration is likely to be repeated by the ex-offender's children. In addition, the majority of female inmates (85% of respondents in

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the *Breaking Cycles, Rebuilding Lives* study) are victims of domestic violence and many of these women report they were also victims of childhood physical and sexual abuse. The majority of female inmates lack the job training and work history to achieve self-sufficiency, long-term employment, and permanent housing.

The proposed "Skills to Succeed" program will create a ground-breaking seamless service delivery model implemented by the Office of Women's Policy (OWP) in collaboration with the Housing Department, the Department of Corrections (DOC), and local homeless, domestic violence, and employment service providers. Specifically, funds will be used to provide case management, domestic violence counseling, and job skills in the green industry. Specifically, the program will provide 50 incarcerated, and/or recently released (ex-offender) women, from the Elmwood correctional facility with an individualized re-entry plan, and employment skills in the green industry. Because the OWP is established as the local entity that has successfully worked in the women's jail, they have been identified as the ideal agency to administer the "Skills to Succeed" program.

"Skills to Succeed" program activities will contribute directly to moving towards a county-wide strategic re-entry discharge plan with the primary goal of reducing the recidivism rate of homeless, or at risk of homelessness, ex-offenders in Santa Clara County. By utilizing the combined strengths and expertise of the OWP, the DOC, the Housing Department, and local service providers, "Skills to Succeed" will simultaneously contribute to county-wide efforts to end homelessness and strategically coordinate re-entry planning efforts.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

It is anticipated that approximately \$200,000 of the grant revenues would be collected in 2010-2011 and the remainder of the grant revenues in 2011-2012. Recommendations to recognize and appropriate the remaining grant award (\$200,000) will be brought forward for Council approval as part of the 2011-2012 Proposed Operating Budget.

Updates on the "Skills to Succeed" program will be provided in the Housing Department's regular reports to the City Council on homeless issues.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

In reaching the recommendation spelled out above, the following alternative was also considered:

Alternative #1: The City could choose not to grant the funding to the County of Santa Clara Office of Women's Policy to implement the program.

- Pros:** The City would have day-to-day control over the expenditure of the DOJ grant, and would not need to coordinate with the County of Santa Clara.
- Cons:** No City department has the experience that OWP has gained in dealing

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directly with incarcerated women.

Reason for not recommending: The success of Destination: Home depends on its partners working together, and the proposed partnership of the Housing Department, OWP, DOC and other service providers is consistent with past collaboration efforts to end homelessness in Santa Clara County.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

The proposed action does not meet any of the above criteria. Nonetheless, this report will be posted on the City Council Agenda Website for the November 30, 2010 meeting.

COORDINATION

This report has been prepared in coordination with the Economic Development Department and the Office of the City Attorney.

FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

Funding for this proposal is consistent with the *10-Year Homeless Strategy to End Chronic Homelessness*, approved by the City Council on September 9, 2003 and the *Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness*, accepted by the City Council on March 11, 2008.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will recognize and appropriate \$200,000 for the "Skills to Succeed" program to provide funding for case management, domestic violence counseling, and job skills in the green industry. Specifically, the program will provide 50 incarcerated and/or recently released (ex-offender) women, from the Elmwood correctional facility, with an individualized re-entry plan and employment skills in the green industry. The remaining grant award of \$200,000 will be included as part of the 2011-2012 proposed budget process.

BUDGET REFERENCE

N/A

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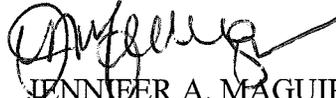
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CEQA

CEQA: Not a project, File No. PP10-066 (e), Agreements/Contracts



LESLYE CORSIGLIA
Director of Housing



JENNIFER A. MAGUIRE
Budget Director

I hereby certify that there will be available for appropriation in the Multi-Source Housing Fund in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 monies in excess of those heretofore appropriated therefrom, said excess being at least \$200,000.



JENNIFER A. MAGUIRE
Budget Director

For questions please contact LESLYE CORSIGLIA, Director of Housing, at 408-535-3851.