

PROPOSAL

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Call for Projects for Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative: Measure H

PREPARED BY

George Gabriel & Ginna Muzingo

City of Manhattan Beach

ON BEHALF OF

City of Manhattan Beach

City of Hermosa Beach

City of El Segundo

City of Redondo Beach

FOR

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DATE

August 10, 2021

PROJECT TITLE:

South Bay Housing Initiative Court

PRIORITY AREA

- ☐ Priority Area 1 - Increase the supply of supportive and interim housing for people experiencing homelessness.
- ☒ Priority Area 2 - Enhance the effectiveness of County service systems for those experiencing and/or at-risk of homelessness.

APPLICATION TYPE

Multijurisdictional – City of Manhattan Beach, City of Redondo Beach, City of El Segundo, and City of Hermosa Beach

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Redondo Beach Housing Initiative Court (RBHI Court or Homeless Court) assists people experiencing homelessness who suffer from mental illnesses, struggle with substance abuse and addiction, and commit non-violent crimes. The housing navigators and services brought to RBHI Court assist such individuals in curtailing the criminal cycle of drug and alcohol use, quality of life, and theft offenses by meeting misdemeanor defendants in Los Angeles County on designated “Homeless Court” dates to offer accessible community services and legal services. These services aim to get defendants housing ready and eventually permanently housed in order to graduate from RBHI Court and have their criminal charges dismissed.

Since the beginning of the pilot program, the prosecution of crimes committed by individuals experiencing homelessness has adapted to become more creative in order to truly curtail the cycle of drug, alcohol, quality of life, and theft offenses. As the only outdoor court in Los Angeles County, the RBHI Court not only has increased safety during the pandemic, it has also resulted in greater participation in this demographic by bringing the courtroom to the community. RBHI Court is located next to a church that provides meals to this population and thus many of the participants were already in the area. The prosecutors have also endeavored to create a system that brings together the resources needed to overcome barriers to becoming permanently housed in one place.

RBHI Court continues to grow into a one-stop shop with multiple agencies offering services. The Public Defender Expungement Van attends every month to assist defendants in clearing their criminal records to help pass background checks for housing. Clear Recovery Center donates substance abuse counseling and mental health therapy. The Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office HEART [Homeless Engagement and Response Team] attends to help clear City and County of Los Angeles traffic citations and associated fines issued to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Various County of Los Angeles Departments are also connected with RBHI Court including the Department of Mental Health in order to conduct evaluations and refer people to treatment and services. Additionally, the most recent participant to the RBHI Court process has been the Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Core Center, which facilitates enrollment with alcohol and substance abuse detox and treatment programs. Lastly, the prosecutors are endeavoring to include South Bay Workforce Investment Board for job placement of court participants.

The purpose of this program is to make it as easy as possible for this demographic to access the needed services to be set-up for long-term success and ultimately have permanent housing solutions.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: GOAL OF PROJECT

In continuing the efforts to combat homelessness and move homeless persons toward permanent housing solutions while being able to access quality care services, the City of Manhattan Beach and El Segundo are looking to contract with the City of Redondo Beach for Homeless Court Services. Providing this local opportunity for homeless persons to appear in court will not only increase the likelihood of their appearance for misdemeanor charges, it will also provide them the opportunity to access counseling and care services they may be reluctant to seek on their own.

In 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors provided funding to the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to administer “Innovation Funds” for homeless services in the South Bay. The City of Redondo Beach was the only jurisdiction that was awarded an innovation grant to provide a Homeless Court as a pilot program titled, “Enhanced Homelessness Response Pilot Program.” The Homeless Court Program offers an informal diversion program and services such as mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and housing placement. This effort is coordinated in cooperation with the Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, Sheriff’s Department, Community Partners, City of Redondo Beach, South West District Administrator, Torrance Criminal Operations Manager, and Judge Rene Gilbertson.

Harbor Interfaith, PATH and City Net are the homeless service providers that attend Homeless Court. Every participant of Homeless Court is connected with a housing navigator of their choice. The housing navigators give the attorneys recommendations and updates on each participant, and the attorneys will ask the judge to make the appropriate orders to get the participants to work towards becoming housing ready. Judge Rene Gilbertson is the presiding judge of Homeless Court, who compassionately encourages the participants while at the same time, is firm when the participants are not following her orders. Homeless Court continues to grow into a one-stop shop with multiple agencies offering services. The Public Defender Expungement Van attends every month to assist defendants in clearing their criminal records to help pass background checks for housing. Clear Recovery Center donates substance abuse counseling and mental health therapy. The Department of Mental Health is able to conduct evaluations and refer people to treatment and services. In addition, these

services are not only available to the participants of Homeless Court, but also to any interested person experiencing homelessness in Redondo Beach.

Due to the pandemic and halt in in-door court services, the City of Redondo Beach changed the location of Homeless Court from the Torrance courtroom to the outdoor location of 200 N. Pacific Coast Highway. The move to an outdoor venue ensured that services to this vulnerable population went uninterrupted. The venue is located next to a church that provides meals to this population and at the outdoor Homeless Court on-site services are offered for mental health, substance issues, and housing placement.

The homeless court program has been viewed as a success in Redondo Beach and has provided an additional tool to incentivize homeless individuals to seek housing options. Therefore, the Beach Cities seek to join in collaboration to expand the diversion initiative to reach all people experiencing homelessness in the South Bay.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: PLANS TO SUSTAIN PROJECT

Based on the success of the City of Redondo Beach's Homeless Court, the City of Manhattan Beach, the City of Hermosa Beach and City of El Segundo are seeking Measure H funds to expand their diversion initiative to reach all homeless persons in the Beach Cities. While the overall goal of the Beach Cities homeless programs is permanent housing solutions, the relationship building and access to care services is a critical step in moving this demographic into interim and permanent domiciles. All programming efforts provided to this community will assist in reaching our collective goal by removing barriers that may exist within the criminal justice system while ensuring accountability to crimes.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

Since December 2019, the City of Redondo Beach has had 50 individuals participate in homeless court and 15 have successfully been housed as a result of the process. Currently, the City of Redondo Beach has 20 active participants in the homeless court program.

To measure the success of the homeless program, prosecutors will continue to measure success with these three factors going forward. These include: 1) Participants, 2) Court Dates, 3) Housing Attainments and 4) Active Participants.

PROJECTED BUDGET

The Homeless Court facilitated by Redondo Beach assessed that for a years' worth of homeless court services, the City of Redondo Beach required \$245,287 to fund the program. Costs/Services included: Police Department Overtime, Prosecutors (2-4), contract attorney services, security officers, homeless outreach services, LA County Sheriff's Department security, and housing and treatment services.

Following is the projected costs required to add the additional Beach Cities to the RBHI Court:

Costs

Positions/Services	Hours	Total
Police Department Overtime	1050	\$105,000
Prosecutors (2-4)	4500	\$125,000
Contract attorneys	300	\$50,000
Staffing Subtotal		\$280,000
Special Services (i.e., psychiatrist, therapy, mental health treatment, transition housing, prescribed medication, etc.)	1500	\$150,000
Court Security Costs (LA County Sheriff's Department Deputy and Officers)	100	\$14,429
Homeless Outreach/Counts to Monitor Effects of Program	100	\$30,000
Operational Subtotal		\$194,429
Project Total		\$474,429

SCOPE OF PROJECT

Develop the necessary agreements to implement the program.

Program Component: Program Preparation	
ACTIVITIES	TARGET OUTCOME: DUE DATE
1. Finalize arrangement between all cities and Los Angeles County District Attorney to determine how prosecution can occur. Submit copy of draft agreement to County.	Executed MOU between beach cities and Los Angeles County District Attorney 60 days after contract execution.

IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

These activities shall describe the activities required over the entire life of the contract.

Program Component: South Bay Housing Initiative Court		
Activities	Metrics	Target Outcomes
1. <u>Court Proceedings</u>	a. Participants, b. Court Dates, c. Housing Attainments and d. Active Participants.	a. 60 Participants b. 14 Court Dates c. 25 Housing Attainments d. 25 Monthly Participants

Deliverables.

Deliverable	Due Date														
I. Provide copy of any MOU agreements necessary to implement the funded program.	Within 60 days of contract execution (if an early payment is needed to start implementing the program, this deliverable can be submitted earlier)														
II. Submit Quarterly Reports and supporting documents.	<p>Within 30 days after quarterly program implementation</p> <table> <tr> <th>Reporting Period</th><th>Submit Report</th></tr> <tr> <td>Dates to depend on the date of contract execution</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>January 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022</td><td>April 30, 2022</td></tr> <tr> <td>April 1, 2022– June 30, 2022</td><td>July 31, 2022</td></tr> <tr> <td>July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022</td><td>October 31, 2022</td></tr> <tr> <td>October 1, 2022 – December 3, 2022</td><td>January 31, 2023</td></tr> <tr> <td>January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023</td><td>April 31, 2023</td></tr> </table>	Reporting Period	Submit Report	Dates to depend on the date of contract execution		January 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022	April 30, 2022	April 1, 2022– June 30, 2022	July 31, 2022	July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022	October 31, 2022	October 1, 2022 – December 3, 2022	January 31, 2023	January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023	April 31, 2023
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III. Submit Final Report	Prior to contract expiration: July 31, 2023														