



Report to City Council

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Marshall Eyerman, Chief Financial Officer

AGENDA DATE: September 5, 2017

TITLE: HOMELESS TO WORK PILOT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommendation:

1. Provide staff with direction for the implementation of a Homeless to Work pilot program for the City.

SUMMARY

The 2017 Riverside County Point-in-Time homeless Count and Survey (PIT), conducted on January 24, 2017, identified 1,638 unsheltered and 768 sheltered homeless people (total 2,406) throughout Riverside County. The total PIT increased countywide by an average of 11% from 2016 to 2017.

Based on the 2017 PIT, the City of Moreno Valley is estimated to have 54 unsheltered homeless individuals and an additional 19 individuals encountered during the PIT who were observed and suspected to be homeless.

Although the number for homeless in Moreno Valley is relatively lower than other cities throughout Riverside County, through the City's Momentum MoVal strategic plan the City has made it a key priority to actively and aggressively address homelessness in Moreno Valley and to work with government and non-government agencies to reduce homelessness in the City.

To address the number of homeless in Moreno Valley, the City is seeking to develop a pilot program similar to programs which have found success in other cities throughout the U.S. A Homeless to work pilot program could be developed to provide a hand up through short term temporary work and by connecting the homeless with the necessary resources to aid them with their unique needs.

DISCUSSION

While seeking new methods to address homelessness in Moreno Valley, members of the City Council along with City staff have reached out to multiple agencies, including the cities of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Denver, Colorado to obtain additional information regarding their homeless to work programs and success rates.

Based on the 2017 PIT for Denver, there are some 5,116 homeless in their City/County. To address the needs of the homeless, the City of Denver is currently in the middle of an initial Denver Day Works pilot program, which will run from November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017. The program, administered by a contracted intake process provider on behalf of the city, focuses on both getting individuals direct contact with needed services along with the goal of getting them back into the work force as a foundation to helping end their homeless condition. So far this program has been able to engage over 300 homeless individuals by providing them foundational employment consisting of one day of work per week, for up to ten weeks along with training and other networking services. Although the City is still examining the results of the pilot program, they were able to indicate that more than 60 individuals have been able to leverage this program to get back into permanent jobs.

For the City of Moreno Valley, the pilot program can be structured based on a framework of similar existing programs, modified as needed to meet our unique needs and resources. As with other agencies' homeless programs, the City's Homeless to Work program would propose to give people experiencing homelessness a pathway out of their homeless condition through work, community collaboration and navigation of existing housing, health care, and employment services. To be successful, the program should be a truly collaborative effort between the City, County and regional nonprofit groups and organizations. The following is a proposed program structure:

- Work Days:** Participants would work two days per week, 5 hours per day, at a rate of \$10.00 per hour, or as adjusted to minimum wage requirements.
- Pickup Locations:** Locations to be identified. The nonprofit will pick up individuals at certain designated sites throughout the City.
- Transportation:** The nonprofit would provide a passenger van to be used for transporting individuals to/from the job sites and service locations.
- Meals/Nutrition:** A sack lunch and water shall be provided by the nonprofit.
- Staff:** A driver/site supervisor, provided by the nonprofit, would provide orientation for daily workers, monitor work and assist as needed. Additional nonprofit staff shall be available for initial intake form processing and to provide resources for immediate connection to County services, housing programs, etc.

Work Tasks: Tasks will not require specialized training or use of hazardous equipment or materials. Work assignments are provided by the City and could include such tasks as collecting and clearing litter and non-hazardous debris, including clearing dead brush and grasses in locations such as maintenance of right of ways and/or parks and other City public areas.

To begin implementation of the pilot program, the following is a summary of the proposed steps. The actual steps will depend based upon the direction by City Council, available funding sources, and the ability to identify and coordinate with a nonprofit agency.

1. Identify the costs and potential funding sources. This includes, but is not limited to, examining the availability of and level of funding from potential sources such as the Emergency Solutions Grant, Community Development Block Grant, and private donations.
2. Identify a community nonprofit partner willing to administer the program.
3. Develop program guidelines in conjunction with the identified nonprofit agency.
4. Seek additional commitments and donations from other agencies and organizations, like Waste Management, for supplies (gloves, vests, trash bags, water, etc.).
5. Once nonprofit partner(s) have been identified and committed, program guidelines have been drafted, and funding sources and levels are identified and determined, Staff will present findings to City Council for program approval, along with approval of a substantial amendment to the Annual Action Plan to commit Federal funds to the program. This item shall require a Public Hearing and appropriate public notification.
6. Following approval from the Federal Government, begin program operations through the nonprofit partner.
7. Timeline – A definitive timeline is difficult to speculate at this time. It will depend upon several variables, the most critical being the success in identifying a willing nonprofit partner capable of administering the program and available funding to support the program's purpose.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide staff with further direction and direct staff to work toward the implementation of a Homeless to Work pilot program for the City. *This action will allow staff to further examine the potential pilot program and bring back information to the City Council to address the program operations and financials, as required.*

2. Do not provide staff with further direction nor direct staff to work toward the implementation of a Homeless to Work pilot program for the City. *This action will keep the homeless situation at status quo. It will not allow for further action to be taken to address the present homeless situation in the City and depending upon conditions in the future, the homeless situation could increase over time.*

FISCAL IMPACT

There are currently no fiscal impacts. Based on upon the direction of the City Council, as the program is further examined, any potential fiscal impacts will be brought back before the City Council for approval as required.

NOTIFICATION

NA

PREPARATION OF STAFF REPORT

Prepared By:
Sharon Sharp
Management Analyst

Department Head Approval:
Marshall Eyerman
Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

CITY COUNCIL GOALS

Positive Environment. Create a positive environment for the development of Moreno Valley's future.

Community Image, Neighborhood Pride and Cleanliness. Promote a sense of community pride and foster an excellent image about our City by developing and executing programs which will result in quality development, enhanced neighborhood preservation efforts, including home rehabilitation and neighborhood restoration.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Economic Development
2. Public Safety
3. Library
4. Infrastructure
5. Beautification, Community Engagement, and Quality of Life
6. Youth Programs

Objective 2.4: Work with government and non-government agencies to reduce homelessness in the City.

Objective 5.4: Actively and aggressively address homelessness in Moreno Valley.

ATTACHMENTS

None

APPROVALS

DRAFT