

To: Community System of Care Council **Staff Report**
Action Item

From: Jeanette Fabela, Housing & Supportive Services Manager
Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office

Date: July 19, 2017

Subject: Request for Application, by United Way of Stanislaus County, for a
Housing Assessment Team

Council Action

- 1) Endorse the release of a Request for Application, by United Way of Stanislaus County, for a Housing Assessment Team
- 2) Selection of a committee to review the Housing Assessment Team Request for Applications to be submitted

Background

The Outreach and Engagement Center (OEC) is scheduled to launch August 1, 2017 and will serve as a physical entry point and service hub for the County's homelessness services system providing access and referrals to a wide-range of services in one location. The OEC is part of countywide Coordinated Entry System (CES) that will improve access to housing, supportive services and community supports. Coordinated Entry (CE) is a consistent, community wide process to match people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness to community resources that are the best fit for their situation. The process helps prioritize housing and homeless assistance based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most can receive it in a timely manner. The process also provides information about service needs and gaps to help plan assistance and identify needed resources in our community.

A Housing Assessment Team will support the implementation of Coordinated Entry at the OEC, and provide housing assessments and connection to supportive services for people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. The OEC is a first substantive step in implementing the multiple strategies of a Coordinated Access System, and provides a unique access point because of the "one-stop shop" model, centralizing housing screening and assessments, and direct referrals to essential supportive services such as healthcare, behavioral health treatment, housing and community/peer supports. This facility will allow for the co-location of the following initial services: 1) Centralized Homelessness Outreach and Engagement, 2) Housing Assessments and Navigation, 3) Homelessness Support Services Referrals, 4) Homelessness Court Outreach and Navigation, 5) Multiple partners will co-locate their services, connecting individuals to their services as appropriate.

Discussion

On June 6, 2017 staff submitted a Sutter Health Community Benefit Grant Proposal in the amount of \$200,000 to fund a Housing Assessment Team. Staff was notified on June 22, 2017 that the grant was being awarded on behalf of two Sutter Health affiliates in Stanislaus County, Memorial Medical Center and Sutter Gould Medical Foundation. The funding would allow for adequate OEC staffing to open the center to the public and assist with the launch of the CES in Stanislaus County. The Housing Assessment Team would be permanently located at the OEC.

The Housing Assessment Team will be front-line staff at the OEC and connect individuals to appropriate services and housing interventions. When housing interventions are available the team will work toward securing the identified unit and support the household throughout the referral and move-in process. Please see the attached Draft Request for Application for further details on the HAT scope of services.

United Way is the Focus on Prevention fiscal agent. Staff is recommending the CSOC Council endorse the release of a Request for Application (RFA), by United Way of Stanislaus County, for a Housing Assessment Team and selection of a committee to review the Housing Assessment Team Request for Applications to be submitted. The Housing Assessment Team Request for Applications schedule is below:

| ACTIVITY | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Release of the Request for Application (RFA) | July 20, 2017 | Release of RFA |
| | August 3, 2017 | Applications Due no later than 4:30 PM |
| Selection | August 7 - 17, 2017 | Review of Applications & HAT Provider Selected |
| | Week of August 21, 2017 | Notification of all Applicants |
| Contracting, Planning, & Staff Development | August 21 - September 22, 2017 | Secure Program Contracted Service Provider, Program Planning, and Staff Development |
| Full launch of Housing Assessment Team | September 25, 2017 | Full Launch of HAT & OEC open to the Public |

Should you have any questions regarding this staff report, please contact Jeanette Fabela at 209-480-2955 or fabelaj@stancounty.com.

Attachments:

1. Draft Request for Application for a Housing Assessment Team for the Homelessness Outreach and Engagement Center in Stanislaus County