



Berkeley Homeless
Services Panel of Experts

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 10, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Homeless Services Panel of Experts
Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Chairperson, Homeless Services Panel of Experts
Subject: Recommendations for Measure P funding

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the recommendations of the Homeless Services Panel of Experts (HSPE), as incorporated into the text summary, into the 2021-2022 budget and refer to staff for implementation.

SUMMARY

The Homeless Services Panel of Experts met on April 21, 2021, April 28, 2021, May 19, 2021 and June 2, 2021 to discuss and vote on recommendations for Measure P funding.

The recommendations are as follows:

(See chart with monetary figures attached). These recommendations were made with housing targeted as the highest priority for Measure P funds.

Purchase of motels to house the homeless: At least \$3 million, unless funds are not otherwise available.

On April 21, 2021, HSPE passed the following motion "HSPE strongly recommends that the City Council allocate a substantial amount of Measure P funding, at least \$3 million dollars, to purchase a hotel or hotels to house persons experiencing homelessness in alignment with other available funding opportunities, affirming its earlier motion again on April 28, 2021 "that at least 3 million of Measure P funding be leveraged with other sources of funding towards the purchase of motels".

HSPE was constant in its position as to purchase of hotels/motels as a high need priority, only uncertain if with the competing priorities including ongoing contracts how much Measure P monies would be available. That was prior to HSPE's learning of the updated Measure P projected revenue of 8.2 million.

Permanent Housing Subsidies: \$0

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All

"Due to the difficulty of implementing permanent subsidies and the time limits of Measure P, HSPE recommends moving 1.6 million from permanent subsidies to shallow subsidies."

Shallow Subsidies: \$1.6 million

"HSPE recommends that Council allocate some Measure P monies to fund shallow subsidies to prevent homelessness for persons at risk and also to support persons experiencing homelessness." (These shallow subsidies would roll over from the unused \$1.6 million in permanent housing subsidies allocated in the previous year.)

5150 Transports: up to \$1 million (homeless transports only-estimated, based on recent prior years, as 40%-56%).

"HSPE prefers that no Measure P funds be used to pay for 5150 transports. HSPE recommends that the City utilize alternate funding sources including FF as well as insurance and MediCal reimbursements. However, we understand that Measure P funds may need to be used to cover 5150 homeless transports, which are 40-56% of all 5150 transports, up to \$1 million".

1367 University Avenue Permanent supportive housing: Funding as needed based on date of opening.

"The HSPE strongly supports the 1367 University Avenue project to provide needed housing for persons experiencing homelessness. The HSPE recommends that 25% of the needed operating expenses for this project be allocated for FY 2022 in the event that the facility opens in spring, 2022. If the facility does not open until FY23, we recommend rolling this allocation over to FY 23."

Coordinated entry system: \$1 million

"HSPE recommends that the Coordinated Entry program be funded at \$1 million based on actual expenses from FY 20 and FY 21."

Pathways: \$1.5 million

"HSPE recommends that Pathways be funded \$1.5 million to take advantage of the match from the state PHLA program for FY 2022."

HSPE indicated an interest in monitoring compliance with issues regarding lack of physical accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Downtown Business Association Outreach worker: \$40,000

"HSPE recommends continued funding for the DBA Homeless Outreach worker at current level of \$40,000."

Lifelong Medical: \$525,000

"HSPE recommends funding for Lifelong Medical Street Outreach at \$525,000".

HSPE believed this program to be successful at engaging persons experiencing homelessness, leading to positive housing outcomes.

Berkeley Drop-In Locker Program: \$50,000

"HSPE recommends funding BDIC locker program \$50,000."

There were serious concerns raised about the lockers not being fully utilized, nearly half below capacity. While recommending funding for an additional year, HSPE believed that the BDIC locker capacity needed to be monitored as to whether the low numbers were as a result of COVID or of their geographical location. It was noted that Dorothy Day's lockers, centrally located in downtown Berkeley, were full with a waiting list.

Dorothy Day House: \$748,000

"HSPE recommends funding Dorothy Day House for \$566,000 for the shelter and \$182,000 for the drop-in services." HSPE was highly pleased with this provider and believed that they worked well with persons experiencing homelessness, leading to permanent housing outcomes.

Downtown Streets Team: \$0

\$920,304 for Downtown Streets Team was approved on the 4/27/21 Council Consent Calendar without first referring this item to HSPE for review. HSPE recommends that Council support this program and encourage Council to look for alternate funding sources so that Measure P funding can be directed towards housing. We understand that Council has approved funding for the Downtown Streets Team in the amount of \$920,304 from Measure P. We believe that Council should have referred this item to the HSPE to consider. While the DST is an excellent program, it is not consistent with the HSPE primary priority recommendation which is providing housing for persons experiencing homelessness. We recommend that the DST funding come from the General Fund, state monies allocated for encampment cleaning, American Rescue Plan Act monies and other funding sources.

Youth Spirit Artworks: \$78,000

"HSPE recommends \$78,000 for YSA Tiny Homes."

HSPE discussed that YSA's contract required them to facilitate the Berkeley youth, whom they serve, into permanent housing within two years.

Evaluation and training: \$0

"HSPE strongly recognizes the importance of racial equity training and urges the City of Berkeley to use City funds to provide such training to City staff and non-profit contractors including those serving persons who are experiencing homelessness. While we do not recommend Measure P funding for evaluation of service providers, we acknowledge the importance of the gathering of this information and encourage the City to conduct comprehensive evaluation."

FISCAL IMPACTS of RECOMMENDATION

Going into this process, HSPE was advised to operate on a projected \$6.2 million Measure P revenue figure. As of May 25, 2021, the Interim Finance Director adjusted that figure to a projected \$8.2 million projected revenue for 2021. 2020 brought in \$9,512.600 million, attributed to the sale of large, multi-unit properties not anticipated for 2021.

HSPE's position is that it is providing its recommendations deferring to Council to modify based on revenue figures.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Homelessness is burgeoning in Berkeley. Affordable housing is virtually non-existent without assistance for persons of low-income not to speak of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

For these reasons, HSPE believed the highest priority for Measure P should be housing and funding paths leading to housing.

Project Room Key was a successful effort during COVID. The American Rescue Plan Act has now made available Project Home Key monies for the purpose of purchasing hotels/motels for persons experiencing homelessness. Berkeley needs to leverage those monies with other monies to provide housing.

Other programs, where funding was not provided through other sources, have sought Measure P funding. HSPE primarily recommended funding for those most tied to housing. However, in some cases, HSPE was compelled to honor existing contracts or situations where no alternate arrangements had been made.

HSPE did not do so in all cases. It stood firm that the Downtown Streets Team, while a commendable program for employing persons who are homeless and providing them housing resources, was at nearly a million dollars too significant an amount of money to come from Measure P monies. Thus, HSPE recommended that those monies come from

the General Fund. Some monies, for encampment cleaning, may be able to be secured from a state source or even possibly, the American Rescue Plan Act.

5150 transport continues to be problematic for Measure P monies that should be directed towards meeting housing needs. HSPE recommends an alternate source such as FF; improved Medi-Cal or insurance reimbursement; mental health funding, or a better ambulance provider contract who absorbs the differential between payment and billing or any combination of the above.

Last year's \$1.6 million subsidy allocation for permanent housing subsidies sat dormant due to staff's position that it could not be implemented particularly due to the Measure P sunset clause. Thus, permanent housing subsidies need be relied on from other sources.

HSPE chose to recommend that \$1.6 million from last year be rolled over into shallow time-limited subsidies consistent with those monies being used for housing persons experiencing homelessness.

HSPE also directed monies towards 1367 University Avenue as it provides supportive housing. However, it was believed that most of those monies could be deferred to a following year due to delayed start-up.

All previous coordinated entry monies were not used so this year's allocation was adjusted consistent with actual need.

BACKGROUND

On June 2, 2021, HSPE's recommendations were approved as follows:

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Scheider, Carrasco, Bookstein, Keahola-Blake.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental impacts.

RATIONALE for RECOMMENDATION

The rationale is detailed in the summary and current situation and effects as stated above.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

At the May 19, 2021 meeting, a commissioner, newly appointed as of that meeting, proposed an alternative proposal with all subsidy monies allocated towards homeless families, also proposing elimination of funding for Youth Spirit Artworks, the BDIC Locker Program and the DBA social worker.

CITY MANAGER

Concurs or see companion report if does not concur.

CONTACT PERSON

Josh Jacobs, Homeless Services Coordinator, (510) 981-5435

Attachments:

1. Summary of Fiscal Year 2022 Measure P Recommendations

Summary of Fiscal Year 2022 Measure P Recommendations

Revenues	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Estimate	FY 2022 CM Estimate	FY 2022 HSPOE Recommendations
Beginning Fund Balance	\$0	\$2,932,313	\$9,859,779	\$10,441,162	\$10,441,162
Measure P Revenues	\$2,932,313	\$9,512,603	\$9,200,000	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000
Balance of Funds	\$2,932,313	\$12,444,916	\$19,059,779	\$18,941,162	\$18,941,162
LESS: Total Expenses	\$0	\$2,585,137	\$8,618,617	\$11,880,687	\$10,960,721
Personnel Costs	\$0	\$118,521	\$279,927	\$336,952	\$336,952
Finance: Accountant II	\$0	\$0	\$152,965	\$158,319	\$158,319
Finance: Contract Staffing	\$0	\$38,266	\$11,734	\$0	\$0
HHCS: Community Services Specialist II	\$0	\$80,255	\$115,228	\$178,633	\$178,633
HHCS: 50% Senior Management Analyst	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Expenses	\$5,864,626	\$2,466,616	\$8,338,690	\$11,543,735	\$10,623,769
Fire: 5150 Response & Transport	\$0	\$846,616	\$2,753,384	\$2,400,000	\$1,000,000
Dorothy Day House Shelter	\$0	\$0	\$300,000	\$566,000	\$566,000
Dorothy Day House Drop In	\$0	\$0	\$21,340	\$182,000	\$182,000
Pathway STAIR Center	\$0	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$1,499,525	\$1,499,525
No Place Like Home	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Coordinated Entry System	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,442,426	\$1,000,000
BDIC Locker Program	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
LifeLong Medical - Street Medicine	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$525,000	\$525,000
YSA Tiny Homes	\$0	\$0	\$117,000	\$78,000	\$78,000
DBA- Homeless Outreach Worker	\$0	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Downtown Streets Team	\$0	\$0	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$0
Outdoor Shelter	\$0	\$0	\$168,000	\$1,002,000	\$850,000
Permanent Housing Subsidies	\$0	\$0	\$1,501,078	\$0	\$0
Homekey Project	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000
Shallow Subsidies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000
1367 University Avenue	\$0	\$0	\$932,975	\$900,000	\$233,244
HHCS: Square One Vouchers	\$0	\$0	\$65,947	\$0	\$0
Training and Evaluation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$133,334	\$0
Homeless Response Team	\$0	\$0	\$938,966	\$900,450	\$0
Berkeley Relief Fund	\$0	\$1,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fiscal Year Surplus (Shortfall)	\$2,932,313	\$6,927,466	\$581,384	\$(3,380,687)	\$(2,460,721)
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,932,313	\$9,859,779	\$10,441,162	\$7,060,475	\$7,980,441