

Homelessness Update

**Presented to the
Santa Cruz City Council
December 11, 2018**

Discussion Agenda

1. Policy and Homeless Coordinating Committee Progress
2. State Funding: CESH / HEAP (~10.6 million)
3. Sheltering Actions
4. Topics Directed at November 13th Meeting

Discussion Item 1

City Policy and Homeless Coordinating Committee Progress

City of Santa Cruz Two-Year Work Plan

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Focus Area 1: Homelessness

The City is grappling with a substantial homeless challenge, with approximately 1,200 unsheltered homeless individuals as established by the most recent 2017 Point-in-Time Homeless Census. In order to alleviate the suffering and negative externalities of the large, visible unsheltered homeless population in the community, the City must tailor its approach to the solutions the City can effect, in strong collaboration with other partners including other local governments, the faith community, the business community, legislative representatives, residents and visitors.

Projects:

- Fund and implement homeless outreach programs
- Implement City Council and Homelessness Coordinating Committee recommendations
- Form City Homelessness Coordinating Team
- Implement public awareness and legislative advocacy outreach

Homelessness Coordinating Committee

- City Council Subcommittee formed in 2016
- Final Report and Recommendations adopted May 23, 2017
- 20 Recommendations focused on visible, adult unsheltered population

Short Horizon Solutions (0-3 years), Adopted by City Council

- **Support the Implementation and Success of Coordinated Entry**
Provide support to launch and sustain this new system. Require that any City-supported homeless program to integrate with the system.
- **Increase Homeless Outreach Services and Mobile Behavioral Health/Mental Health Response**
Expanded mobile mental health team from the County Health Services Agency. Consider additional outreach workers in the downtown.
- **Contract for Homeless Jobs Engagement Program**
Contract with the Downtown Streets Team to provide homeless outreach and jobs opportunity. Team could assist with clean-ups, beautification projects, maintenance of downtown, dumping clean-up, and support services in public garages and other facilities.
- **Create a Triage Location/Expanded Recovery Center for Crisis Intervention**
Explore partnerships with County and health providers to establish more treatment bed capacity and reserve one bed for on-demand treatment of people found in crisis. Expand services offered at the Recovery Center. Advocate to include mental health triage center for individuals who are sub-acute, but clearly in need of psychiatric intervention.
- **Secure Storage Facilities**
Identify and secure facilities to allow individuals to check their possessions into a managed storage facility or rental storage lockers. Co-locate with other services and case management, or follow the storage, shower and laundry facility model (SHWASHLOCK).
- **Secure Hygiene Resources: Restrooms and Showers**
Explore locations and providers of additional restrooms and showers dedicated for the homeless community. Consider hygiene buses or mobile restroom trailers, as well as supportive partnerships with the faith-based community, homeless advocates, businesses and other organizations.
- **Continue to Fund Homeward Bound**
Appropriate \$25,000 in the FY 2018 Budget for Homeward Bound. Outreach to other service-providing agencies to offer access to these funds. Invite the Homeless Action Partnership to jointly fund the program. Encourage public donations.
- **Secure Electronic Device Charging Resources**
Research the charging station program at the library. Secure and site electronic device charging resources in the City. Encourage other locations outside of the City.

Short Horizon Solutions (continued)

- **Create a 2x2 Committee with the County**
Formally invite the County to participate and schedule the first meeting for Summer 2017.
- **Engage in Strategic Planning with the Homeless Services Center, County and Other Service Partners**
Coordinate State Advocacy with Other High-Ratio Homeless Communities.
- **Explore Potential for Local Help from No Place Like Home Legislation (AB 1618)**
Work with the County in anticipation of the Notice of Financial Availability release in Winter 2018.
- **Engage and Advocate Federal Representatives on Homelessness and Mental Illness Needs**
- **Develop a Revenue Source for Housing**
Support the work of the Affordable Housing Committee or other efforts to identify, create and dedicate funding for development of housing.
- **Improve City's Internal Coordination System and Homeless Protocols from Front Line to Public Safety Staff, and Ensure Training and Support**
- **Coordinate State Advocacy with Other High-Ratio Homeless Communities**
- **Create Homelessness Information and Resource Page on City Website**

Long Horizon Solutions (5+ years), Adopted by City Council

- **Cultivate Development of Housing**
Support the development of housing.
- In addition, three shelter options are recommended and are ranked in terms of priority:
- **#1 Consider San Francisco Navigation Center Model**
Engage in partner and community discussions about a regional navigation center. This is the gold standard: a one-stop facility integrating rehabilitation, employment, shelter and wrap-around services.
 - **#2 Pursue Permanent, Regional, Year-Round Homeless Shelter Center**
Engage in partner and community discussion about a regional year-round homeless shelter center.
 - **#3 Explore a Day Center with Basic Services and Case Management**
Consider the re/establishment of a day center with basic services and case management workers to provide a productive environment that helps with immediate and long-term needs.

Council Policy on Homeless Services

Adopted March 2010, affirmed May 2017:

The policy position of the City is to continue to work toward efforts that seek equal participation from all jurisdictions for homeless services and programs, both in terms of funding and also in terms of the location of those services.

Discussion Item 2

State Funding: CESH and HEAP Programs

NEW State Homeless Funding for Santa Cruz/Watsonville Continuum of Care

- State surplus funding of \$500 million
- Distributed across and to CoCs per formula
- Administered through two programs:

CESH – California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program
(~\$890,000)

HEAP – Homeless Emergency Aid Program
(~\$9.7 million)

State Grant Program	CESH <i>California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program</i>	HEAP <i>Homeless Emergency Assistance Program</i>
Grant Amount	\$889,424	\$9,674,883
Eligible Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rental Assistance and Housing Stabilization ▪ Housing Subsidy Funds ▪ Emergency Services ▪ Systems Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Homeless Services ▪ Rental Assistance or Subsidies ▪ Capital Improvements ▪ Youth Set-Aside (required 5%) ▪ Other
Application Due to State	October 15, 2018	December 31, 2018
Expenditure Deadline	Within 5 years of receipt	Within 2 years of receipt

Countywide Community Engagement

- September 21 – *All-In* Plan Priorities Refresh Workshop
- October 9 – CESH Spending Plan Stakeholder Workshop
- November 27 – HEAP Stakeholder Workshop: County
- November 28 – HEAP Stakeholder Workshop: Watsonville
- December 3 – HEAP Stakeholder Workshop: Santa Cruz

CESH and HEAP Spending Proposal

Eligible Activities	CESH (\$889,424)	HEAP (\$9,674,883)	Total Funding
Rental Assistance and Housing Stabilization	20% (\$177,883)	17% (\$1,644,730)	\$2,000,496
Housing Subsidy Funds	20% (\$177,883)		
Emergency Services	40% (\$355,775)	26% (\$2,515,470)	\$2,871,245
Systems Support	15% (\$133,412)	-	\$133,412
Capital Improvements	-	35% (\$3,386,209)	\$3,386,209
Youth Services	-	15% (\$1,451,232)	\$1,451,232
Other & Admin	5% Other (\$44,471)	2% Other (\$193,498) 5% Admin (\$483,744)	Other \$237,969 Admin \$483,744

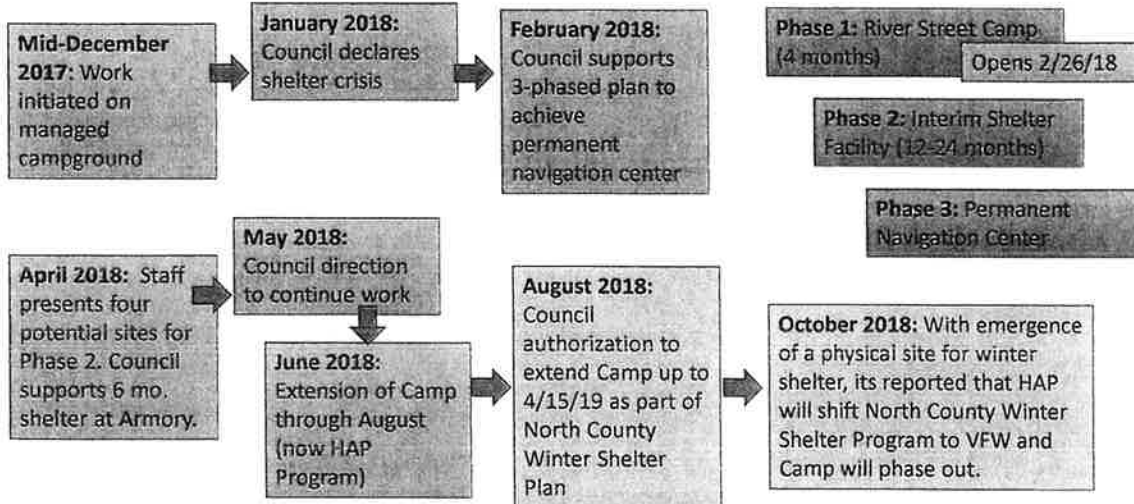
Next Steps

- HEAP Block Grant Application to be Submitted December 14
- RFPs developed and released January 2019
- Selection March/April 2019

Discussion Item 3

Sheltering Direction and Action

Direction and Action: Sheltering



River Street Camp

- Approved as 4-month program
- No outside operator found; City assumed operations
- 24/7 supported and managed campsite with 30-50 campsites and approximately 65 persons
- Closed operations on November 30 after 9 months of operation
- 130 total persons served; 56% moved on to improved living situation

	SUD Treatment or Sober Living	Vehicle	Transitional/ Supportive/ Permanent/Board and Care/Mental Health Housing	Homeward Bound/Family	Winter Shelter
# of Clients (entire 9-mo. duration, out of 130)	7	12	32	10	14
Percentage	5%	9%	25%	8%	11%
# of Clients (last 30 days, out of 51)	3	11	10	3	14
Percentage	6%	22%	20%	6%	27%

North County Winter Shelter

- August 2018: with no other site or operator, River Street Camp proposed to serve as Winter Shelter
 - Safe Parking proposal was tabled
 - Expansion of beds at HSC explored (not pursued at this time)
- September 2018: Winter Shelter operator and site emerge. HAP determines that indoor shelter is preference for health and safety of participants.
- **City Council (and HAP) wants more shelter and staff have been working with the HAP on expansion options.**

Recommendations for North County Winter Shelter Expansion and Shelter Preservation

1. Motion to direct staff, as part of the HAP for the Winter Shelter Program, to pursue additional winter emergency shelter for women, families and mobility-impaired individuals, for a target of 40 beds, at the Laurel Street Salvation Army site with an operating model that minimizes community impact, and return to the City Council in January with an operating proposal including potential City costs.
2. Motion to authorize the use of City facilities to host twice weekly meal and intake services for the Laurel Street Salvation Army Winter Shelter expansion, and return in January with a proposal including costs to the City.
3. Motion to direct staff, as part of the HAP for the Winter Shelter Program, to pursue additional Warming Center beds, and return to the City Council in January with an operating proposal including potential City costs.

Recommendations, Continued ...

4. Motion to authorize the use of City facilities to serve as an overflow and substitute for the Laurel Street Winter Shelter and/or Warming Center, up to 15 nights, and return to the City Council in January with an estimate of costs to the City.
5. Motion to authorize the expenditure and appropriate funds of \$100,000 from the FY 2019 General Fund Budget, to help fund the Winter Shelter program expansion and sustain operations and preservation of 40 shelter beds at the Paul Lee Loft for four months, from February through May of 2019.

Winter Shelter Expansion & Preservation

Program	Agency	Description	Beds	Duration	Cost
River Street Camp	HAP, City Operated	Phase 1 and Bridge Shelter	60	July 1 – Nov 30*	\$387,000
Winter Shelter Program	HAP, Salvation Army Operated	VFW on 7 th Ave.	60	Nov 15 - April 15	\$378,000
Warming Center	Warming Center	Pop-up shelter on coldest, wettest nights	Expansion from 80 to >100 persons, TBD	Expansion from 20 to 40 nights/winter, TBD	TBD
Winter Shelter Expansion	HAP, Salvation Army Operated	For women, families, mobility impaired at Laurel St. Salvation Army	Target of 40	January – April 15	TBD
Paul Lee Loft	HSC	Emergency	40	To sustain: Feb - May	TBD

*From February 26 – June 30, the River Street Camp solely was a City program.

Encampment

- Encampment has grown on Caltrans and City properties at Highway 1 and River Street
- County has been providing health services and outreach
- City, at request of County health, provided some portable toilets, handwashing stations and refuse bins
- Public safety is monitoring daily

→ **Council direction?**

Discussion Item 4

Topics Directed at November 13th Council Meeting

- Recommendations for a proposed budget adjustment to continue funding emergency homeless shelter resources until the Homeless Action Partnership (HAP) Executive Committee identifies regional supplemental shelter options.
- An inventory of no less than five (5) potential locations for year-round emergency shelter, including City-owned property within and outside of City limits and privately or public-entity owned parcels;
- Recommendations for implementing a voluntary intra-County Homeward Bound program for jail releasees for those arrested from outside the City and released within 24 hours or due to insufficient jail bed spaces;
- Information for an amendment to the Camping ordinance with available options to restore enforceability in light of *Martin v. Boise*, including but not limited to:
 - Designated managed camping areas;
 - Restricting application to specified areas; and
 - Rotating no-enforcement zones or locations

