



DRAFT

May 22, 2017

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
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RE: MEASURE H PLANNING GROUP FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) has participated in the Measure H Planning Group and provides the following comments and recommended changes to the Measure H funding recommendations:

Comment No. 1 (Strategy E7):

The Coordinated Entry System is central to the County’s Homeless Initiative as it manages the initial interface with homeless residents and connects them with services. However, there is a critical element missing that will prevent achieving the mission and realizing this vision - namely the intentional engagement of local governments and regional governmental organizations as partners in this effort. There is in every strategy the recognition of the need and the resources to build the capacity of local service providers and community-based organizations; there is no such recognition or support for the role of local governments.

The SGVCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy E7:

- Allocate a portion of Measure H funds to be used to allow interested COG’s to hire/create an in-house COG Regional Homeless Coordinator, to help expand capacity and facilitate coordination with regional member cities.

A COG Homeless Coordinator would coordinate and engage with COG member cities, regional service providers and their SPA to support the Coordinated Entry System and the Continuum of Care services for residents currently homeless and those who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Comment No. 2 (Strategy E6):

Strategy E6 includes \$1.245 million per year for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department for homeless outreach services. However, this strategy does not provide similar funding for cities that provide the same services.

The SGVCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy E6:

- Provide a portion of Measure H funds under this strategy for local Police Departments to provide similar services within their cities.

Comment No. 3 (Strategy B4):

Currently, Measure H does not provide any direct allocation of funding for Continuum of Cares (CoC's). The organizational infrastructure that exists within the CoC's, as well as the collaborations between the County and the CoC's are critical to delivering effective and relevant homeless prevention services consistent with the strategies outlined in Measure H.

The SGVCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy B6:

- Provide a portion of Measure H funding for each of the CoC's so that they may support the County's overall homeless reduction efforts. At a minimum, a pro rata share of the funding should go directly to participating Housing Authorities and not remain solely with HACoLA to reduce bureaucracy and increase the usefulness of the program by enabling quick access to the funds.

Comment No. 4 (Strategies D2 and D4):

The program expansion for homeless inmates is a priority since it would offer all homeless inmates jail in reach services from the beginning of incarceration. By coordinating all services provided to homeless inmates, it would be possible to provide one case plan monitored by one assigned case manager, with the goal of ensuring strong service integration. Additionally, the expansion of Jail in-reach, in conjunction with the Re-entry Network, will help integrate high-quality mental health, physical health, and substance use disorder providers. It is necessary to include other law enforcement agencies to expand their capacity for Jail in-reach.

The SGVCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy D2 and D4:

- Increase funding under these strategies to allow city police departments to participate and to provide in-reach services to city jails.

Comment No. 5 (Strategy C7):

The subsidized employment program currently provides subsidized employment to GROW youths, aged 18 to 24. The existing program design and infrastructure could be leveraged and expanded to provide services countywide to adults.

The SGVCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy C7:

- Currently, the Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) temporary employment program only allows eight months of employment which is not long enough to make a long-term impact for the clients. Therefore, additional funds should be allocated to allow funding for temporary employment programs with longer durations of employment.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and participate in this process. Should you have any questions, please contact our office at (626)457-1800.