

AUGUST 2019



A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER TO
INFORM, EDUCATE, AND
PROVIDE UPDATES ON
HOMELESSNESS IN
FULLERTON

The Helping Hand

Homeless Services Update



this issue

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North Orange County Public Safety Taskforce Funding-City Net

In 2017, the North Orange County Public Safety Taskforce (NOC PST), comprised of 10 North Orange County Cities and 40 Non Profit Community Based Organizations working together to implement regional public safety policies, was awarded \$20 million in state funds to support a four year multijurisdictional pilot program specifically targeting gang prevention and homelessness.

Since February 2018, City Net has been providing outreach and engagement services with two full time equivalent staff two days a week through this funding. Since the beginning of their contract, through the end of July, 300 people have been successfully exited from the street. Of those, only 26 have returned to homelessness. This is a 93% retention rate.

In 2019, the third year of the NOCPST pilot program, the funding awarded to Fullerton to address homelessness, is \$155,000. This funding will allow City Net to expand their homeless outreach and engagement services with 3.33 full time equivalent staff for 5 days a week as well as be on-call on Saturdays. It is anticipated that the increase in days and staff will allow City Net to assist more people in ending their homelessness.



TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIOR MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS

A large majority of mobile home residents in Fullerton are seniors on a fixed income. Although the mobile home unit is owned by the resident, in most of the parks, residents must pay space rent monthly. For many of the mobile home owners, more than 50% of their monthly income is used for housing costs.

In response a Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program was created IN 2008 to assist those mobile home owners who paid more than 50% of their income for housing costs, including space rent. After several years, due to lack of funding the program was discontinued.

In 2016 City Council approved the TBRA program to provide rental reimbursement assistance to mobile home owners living in senior mobile home parks. Income eligibility was based on households earning less than fifty percent (50%) of Area Median Income (AMI) and the definition of senior was defined as those individuals 62 or older. A total of 25 households were assisted each year of the two years the program was administered.

In early 2019 Rancho La Paz senior mobile home park was sold and residents began receiving notices of significant space rent increases.

In March 2019 City Council directed staff to prepare an overview of potential tools for City consideration to stabilize space rental rate increases at the City's mobile home parks.

On July 16, 2019, City Council directed staff to recommend program parameters to re-establish a TBRA program.

Staff reviewed the previous TBRA program determined that since both senior parks in Fullerton define seniors as individuals who are 55 or older, reducing the age definition could allow more residents to benefit from the program,

On August 20, 2019 City Council approved \$350,000 to reestablish the TBRA program as a means of homeless prevention for individuals 55 or older living in all mobile home parks. First priority will be given to seniors (at or below 50% AMI), who are paying more than 50% of their monthly gross income for housing costs at Rancho La Paz. Second priority will be given to seniors (at or below 50% AMI), who are paying more than 50% of their monthly gross income for housing costs in all other mobile home parks in Fullerton. Third priority will be given to those seniors who are paying over 30% of their monthly income for housing costs. If needed, a lottery will be held at the second level.

Staff will pursue funding annually in order to continue to offer the program annually.

On August 27, 2019, staff met 72 Rancho La Paz residents to assist them in completing the applications. To date, five applications were received.

It is anticipated that approximately 60 residents could be assisted.

Outreach Grid Pilot Program

North Orange County Public Safety Taskforce (NOCPT) funding was also awarded to continue the use and expansion of Outreach Grid platform to be used by outreach workers and law enforcement agencies to understand the state of homelessness in the city, in order to deliver better services. Core features of the platform include:

- Camp Mapping via GPS
- Identity Management and Data Sharing to track progression of services over time.
- Workflow Management to record work done for clients across multiple agencies
- Reports on aggregate data
- HMIS data dictionary compliant
- Custom Survey and Shelter Bed Availability (through County Coordinated Entry System)

In early 2019, City Net outreach workers and Fullerton Homeless Liaison Officers began beta testing Outreach Grid app, by collecting information on demographics, trends, and needs of people experiencing homelessness in Fullerton, as a pilot project.

It was determined that this platform allows for much more specific information on individuals experiencing homelessness including the average number of years a client has been homeless, whether there was an increase or a decrease in the number of individuals flowing into or out of the jurisdiction, and services needed.

Due to the success of the pilot, it is anticipated that the use of Outreach Grid will be expanded to include all of the other NOCPT cities by December 2019. This will be a very important tool in order to be able to address homelessness regionally.

The Contributor App will be rolled out by December 1st as well. This will allow community members to be able to join the fight against homelessness by sharing information with service agencies, as well as those experiencing or about to experience homelessness will be able to self report and engage with services providers.

In the future, it is anticipated that this platform will also be able to identify available shelter beds regionally so that the right person can be matched with the appropriate available bed.



NOTICE OF INTENT TO PARTNER WITH ILLUMINATION FOUNDATION

Illumination Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3), that provides targeted, interdisciplinary services for the homeless adults and children in order to break the cycle of homelessness.

Their services include emergency housing, health care, child services, and post hospital or recuperative care. Illumination Foundation runs the La Mesa Emergency Shelter in the City of Anaheim.

In light of the recent Declaration of Shelter Crisis, Mayor Jesus Silva met with Illumination Foundation to learn about their ability to acquire a site in the City of Fullerton. From that meeting the Mayor requested that the City Council consider a Letter of Intent to provide a level of commitment to the Illumination Foundation in their effort as a means to establish a future partnership to address the homeless situation in Fullerton.

The Letter of Intent is a first step in addressing the need for providing more shelter opportunities for Fullerton homeless individuals and families and would be in complement with the City's participation in the North SPA navigation centers. The City would look to obtain State grant opportunities for acquisition and development of navigation centers as provided in the most recent State budget, and seek to secure on on-going revenue to assist with operational costs.

Illumination Foundation is looking to develop a 50 bed recuperative care facility with an additional capacity for 100 persons in a traditional navigation center.

The Letter of Intent is meant to provide an initial interest by the City of Fullerton in partnering with Illumination Foundation to assist in the acquisition, development, and operation of a new navigation center with recuperative care services.

The City would look to assist in any funding gaps for acquisition and based on past efforts, approximately \$2.5 million would be needed for tenant improvements, furniture, fixtures, and equipment. While recuperative care services (50 beds) are reimbursed through other sources, operational estimates for 100 beds range from \$1.4 million to \$1.75 million annually.

On August 20, 2019, City Council approved the Notice of Intent regarding assistance related to the acquisition and development of a Recuperative Care/Navigational Center with Illumination Foundation.

If the City eventually partners with Illumination Foundation, a subsequent legal document outlining funding, management, and operational matters would need to be considered by the City Council.



While the City has approved a Letter of Intent with Illumination Foundation, the City is also interested in any other potential project for the development and/or operation of Recuperative Care and/or Navigation Centers in the City.

Therefore, if you are a non profit developer or homeless service provider and have property in Fullerton, or have funding to acquire property in the City and would like to partner with the City to develop and operate a Recuperative Care or Navigation Center, please contact Briana Stickney, Housing Resources Coordinator by email: bstickney@cityoffullerton.com or call (714)738-6544 or to set up a meeting to discuss potential opportunities.

FULLERTON HOMELESS PLAN COMMITTEE

On July 2nd, 2019 council approved the formation of the Fullerton Homeless Plan Committee.

The committee is made of Homeless Services Providers (including City Net, OC United, and Pathways of Hope), members of St. Jude Medical Center, Fullerton College, Cal State Fullerton, North OC Chamber of Commerce and other business community members, Fullerton Collaborative Homeless Sub Committee, FullertonAct, Fullerton Free Church Local Missions, Fullerton Interfaith Ministerial Association, Tri Parish Homeless Collaborative, other homeless advocates and concerned residents.

The Fullerton Homeless Plan Committee is commissioned with the task to form a strategic plan that reflects a collective effort in

addressing homelessness in Fullerton. The committee is comprised of members who will ensure Fullerton's approach to addressing homelessness is comprehensive and solution based. Their objectives are to research models, develop a plan framework and give recommendations.

This group will meet every other Tuesday at the Fullerton Community Center 340 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton, CA 92832 from 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. Upcoming meeting schedule is as follows: September 3rd, September 17th, October 1st, October 15th, October 29th, November 12th, and November 26th.

The Homeless Plan Committee is an open meeting. Citizen input is greatly encouraged. Click [here](#) for more information.

For more information: www.cityoffullerton.com/homelessness