



Homeless Services Panel of Experts

## Homeless Services Panel of Experts Mission and Budget Subcommittee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Au Coquelet  
2000 University Ave,  
Berkeley, CA 94704

### Agenda

*All agenda items are for Discussion and Possible Action.*

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. REVISING COUNCIL REPORT [ATTACHMENT 1].
4. ADJOURNMENT

#### Attachments:

1. Draft Council Report.

#### **Public Comment Policy:**

*Members of the public may speak on any items on the Agenda and items not on the Agenda during the initial Public Comment period. Members of the public may not speak more than once on any given item. The Chair may limit public comments to 3 minutes or less.*

*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Health, Housing & Community Services Department located at 2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor.*

#### **COMMUNITY ACCESS INFORMATION**

*This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at*

981-6342 (V) or 981-6345 (TDD) at least 3 business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

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Homeless Services Panel of Experts

ACTION CALENDAR

November 12, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Homeless Services Panel of Experts  
Submitted by: Katharine Gale, Chairperson  
Subject: Recommendations for Allocation of FY19/20 Measure P Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Approve recommendations for the allocation of FY19/20 General Funds commensurate with estimated resources accrued from the passage of Measure P.

SUMMARY

The Homeless Services Panel of Experts recommends that the City allocate general funds to a variety of critical activities including shelter, permanent housing, supportive services and other programs types to address the current crisis of homelessness in Berkeley. The recommended priority order, percentages, estimated amounts, types of activities and subpopulation considerations are included as Attachment 1 to this report.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Recommendations covered by this report allocate general fund resources for homeless housing and services in an undetermined amount commensurate with those raised to date under the transfer tax authorized under Measure P (minus those previously allocated by Council) and estimated to be approximately \$4 million.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Homeless is increasing in the City of Berkeley and throughout the Bay Area. Between 2017 and 2019 homelessness in Berkeley at a point-in-time has risen by 13%, affecting more than 1,100 people on any given night. Recognizing the need for additional housing and services and for humane measures to address the impacts of homelessness, the Voters of Berkeley passed Measure P in November 2018, which collects a specified transfer tax on high-value real estate transactions with the intention to use these additional funds to address homelessness in the City of Berkeley.

Measure P established a Homeless Services Panel of Experts (HSPE) to advise the City Council. The Panel consists of nine members with a deep level of expertise in areas relevant to homelessness, including persons with extensive professional and/or lived experience with homelessness. The Panel began meeting in May 2019. Katharine Gale and Yesica Prado are the elected chair and vice-chair of the Panel.

Addressing homelessness is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing the City's goal to create affordable housing and supportive services for our most vulnerable community members.

### **Process**

This report provides HSPE's first recommendations for initial investments from General Funds to increase and improve housing and services to address homelessness in Berkeley. In order to develop these recommendations, the Panel first adopted a Purpose Statement (included as Attachment 2). The Panel reviewed all of the referrals made to us since the Measure's passage in light of our adopted statement. This included the funding requests and referrals included in the January Measure P Informational report to Council as well as additional referrals, formal and informal, sent to the Panel since that time. We also considered information we were presented by City staff regarding current City of Berkeley investments, local and regional strategies, and the 1,000 Person Plan.

A Mission and Budget Subcommittee of the Panel meet and categorized the referrals we received by areas of investment (permanent housing, shelter, etc.) and proposed initial percentages to each area, as well as a process to determine the final recommendations. The full Panel reviewed the investment areas, added additional activities/program types to the areas, prioritized the program types within each area, and made recommended adjustments to the percentages, resulting in the recommended allocations attached to this report.

*The subcommittee and Panel also adopted subpopulation priorities within the key investment areas of permanent housing subsidies, and short-term, flexible subsidies. These include establishing a priority for permanent supportive housing subsidies for any and all unsheltered families with children in Berkeley that meet the eligibility for permanent supportive housing, and a priority for flexible housing subsidies for homeless families with children in the Berkeley Unified School District. This also includes a recommended 10% set-aside for transition-age youth in both short-term and permanent subsidies.*

As stated above, the actual amount of funding to be allocated has yet to be determined. The agreed upon order of priority, percentages and an estimated amount of funding based on an estimated allocation of close to \$4 million is included as Attachment 1. The Panels' priorities within each area are expressed in the order of activities. We recommend that higher ranked activities be given a greater priority for resources, but we

recognize that some activities we have recommended may be funded using other resources at the City's disposal. Activities left out of our table, such as Public Works street cleaning, and street outreach, were not recommended for funding from Measure P at this time.

The HSPE notes that the amount available for us to allocate was reduced by nearly \$1.5 million pursuant to appropriations in Council's FY19/20 Biennial Budget adoption for City staff and for Mental Health Emergency Transport. We understand that FY19/20 funding is already committed but we wish to express our strong objection to the pre-allocation of \$2.4 million in FY20/21 Measure P-generated funding to fully cover these transportation costs. Measure P was passed by the voters of Berkeley to address the crisis of homelessness; while some people who experience homelessness may require emergency mental health transportation, this service is not limited to people who are homeless and was not budgeted with consideration that most people who will be transported will be people who are housed. In addition, this service does not result in greater housing or shelter for people who are homeless and we believe is not consistent with the spirit of Measure P. We recommend the Council request information regarding the percentage of those transported who are homeless. We hope to make recommendations for next year's investments with consideration to this.

### **Next Steps**

The HSPE recognizes that it was established not only to make recommendations about investment amounts but also to advise on methods and practices. A companion letter will be sent to Council to accompany this report with additional recommendations and considerations for how to ensure Berkeley's programming is consistent with best practices.

Future work of the Panel will include developing an Action Plan for the coming year and coordinating with Measure O to plan for future developments. Future work may include recommendations regarding establishing a goal of ending family homelessness or other City-wide goals.

### **BACKGROUND**

Measure P was passed by the voters of Berkeley in 2018. The Homeless Services Panel of Experts began meeting in May of 2019. To guide our work, in August 2019 we have adopted a Statement of Purpose. This Statement is provided as Attachment 2 to this report and is a guide to the recommendations made in this Report.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

There are no identifiable environmental costs or opportunities associated with these recommendations; the determination regarding how to invest in shelter expansion activities may require environmental consideration.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The exact amount of funds that will be generated by Measure P are unknown at this time, and additional State and local funds may become available to the City to cover similar cost areas to address homelessness as those recommended by the Panel. Thus, the Panel is recommending key categories for investment, relative priorities expressed as percentages, and priorities within each of these areas. City staff and Council are encouraged to use these recommendations to determine the specific investments within each area.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager [TYPE ONE] concurs with / takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report. [OR] Refer to the budget process.

**Note: If the City Manager does not (a) concur, (b) takes any other position, or (c) refer to the budget process, a council action report must be prepared. Indicate under the CITY MANAGER heading, "See companion report."**

CONTACT PERSON

Peter Radu, Homeless Services Coordinator and Secretary to the Homeless Services Panel of Experts, HHCS, (510)-981-5435.

Attachments:

- 1: Recommendations for First Year Measure P Allocations - By Category and Activity
- 2: Homeless Services Panel of Experts Statement of Purpose

**ATTACHMENT 1:**

**Recommendations for General Fund Allocations Associated with Measure P - By Category and Activity**

Because the total amount of funding available is unknown, recommendations are based on a percentage of funding to each category. Estimated amounts and rounded amounts are provided to easily show relative size of investment but may vary based on actual amounts available.

Within investment areas, activities are listed in the order they were prioritized and we generally recommend higher priority be given to these activities over those that are listed further down in higher priority categories. Activities that are not listed, such as encampment cleaning and street outreach were not recommended for funding in this allocation. Additional considerations and recommendations include subpopulation priorities and service types considered within each activity.

Priority	Investment Area and Activities/program types	Percent	Estimated Amount	Rounded Amount	Additional Considerations/ Recommendations
1.	<b>SHELTER AND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATIONS</b>	31%	\$1,230,208	\$1,250,000	
	1. Expand Shelter Capacity		Adding new sheltering capacity may include the development of dedicated RV parking, use of tiny houses, or other means to increase shelter capacity.		
	2. Support sanctioned encampments				
	3. Invest in improving existing shelter capacity		Increase services and housing connections in shelters so that they are able to function as Navigation Centers.		
2.	<b>PERMANENT HOUSING</b>	29.5%	\$1,179,682	\$1,200,000	
	Permanent Supportive Housing Subsidies (Tenant-based) and services		Establish a priority for these permanent supportive housing subsidies and services for Berkeley unsheltered families with children who otherwise qualify for Permanent Supportive Housing.; Establish a 10% set-aside for qualifying Transition-Age youth.		
3.	<b>IMMEDIATE STREET CONDITIONS AND HYGIENE</b>	14%	\$555,578	\$550,000	
	1. Toilets and Hygiene Stations				
	2. Lockers				
4.	<b>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</b>	13%	\$515,894	\$500,000	
	1. Health Care services		Health care services dedicated to people experiencing homelessness which may include street medicine		

Priority	Investment Area and Activities/program types	Percent	Estimated Amount	Rounded Amount	Additional Considerations/ Recommendations
	2. Employment and Income Development Activities		Activities may include job development and support as well as benefits advocacy and other services to improve incomes		
	3. Substance Use Treatment		Substance use treatment services dedicated for persons who are experiencing homelessness		
<b>5. SHORT/ MEDIUM TERM HOUSING SUBSIDIES</b>		<b>10%</b>	<b>\$396,841</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	
	Flexible housing subsidies		Establish a priority for unsheltered families with children in the Berkeley Unified School District. Establish a 10% set-aside for Transition-Age youth. Flexible housing subsidies may include prevention, diversion or rapid exit support.		
<b>6. INFRASTRUCTURE</b>		<b>2.5%</b>	<b>\$99,210</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	
	1. Training	~80%	Use resources in this category for training for Berkeley community-based organizations working with people who are homeless.		
	2. Evaluation	~20%	Use resources in this category to ensure that the experiences of service users are captured and considered in performance evaluation		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$3,968,414</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>	

**ATTACHMENT 2:****Homeless Services Panel of Experts Adopted Mission/Purpose Statement  
(adopted in substantially this form August 14, 2019)**

The Voters of Berkeley passed Measure P to generate additional General Funds to use to address the crisis of homelessness. The Homeless Services Panel of Experts created by the Measure was established to “make recommendations on how and to what extent the City should establish and/or fund programs to end or prevent homelessness in Berkeley and provide humane services and support.”

We understand the current crisis of homelessness requires investments in prevention, health services and permanent housing which we know to be the solution to homelessness, as well as in shelters, supports and other temporary measures that get people immediately out of the elements. We will seek to strike a balance between these needs in our recommendations.

We will consider currently unmet needs, gaps and opportunities, best practices and currently available data on outcomes. We will make recommendations for increased local investment, including program types, target populations and geographic areas as appropriate. We will seek to consider the best use of these investments in the context of other available Federal, State and local funding. In general, we will not make recommendations on the specific agencies to receive funding, nor run our own proposal process, recognizing this as a role for staff and the Council. We will request updates on the performance of Measure P investments and the homeless service system overall, including the experience of service users, and use this information to inform future recommendations and provide oversight.

We recognize that homelessness is a regional issue and requires a regional approach, including recognizing that people from Berkeley may live in other places and remain connected to Berkeley services.

To ensure Measure P funding recommendations further efforts to create more housing for people experiencing homelessness in Berkeley, we will coordinate with the Measure O panel to ensure that very low cost housing is connected to services and operating support so that it can successfully targeted to people who are homeless.

We will meet as needed to fulfill this Mission, and to make recommendations to the City Council at least annually.