



## **REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**From: Jason Simpson, City Manager**

**Prepared by: Alex Teahen, Management Analyst**

**Date: June 28, 2022**

**Subject: Agreement for Professional Services with Social Work Action Group (SWAG) for Street Outreach and Emergency Housing Services**

### **Recommendation**

Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement for Professional Services with Social Work Action Group (SWAG) for Street Outreach and Emergency Housing Services in an amount not to exceed \$569,280 in such final form as approved by the City Attorney.

### **Background**

Homelessness is a top priority for the City of Lake Elsinore and the State of California as a whole. Since the creation of the City's first Homeless Task Force in 2017, Lake Elsinore has made significant strides to assist our most vulnerable residents off the streets while seeking effective methods of reducing our homeless population to achieve functional zero for chronic homelessness.

A key member in achieving this goal is the Social Work Action Group (SWAG) – the City's nonprofit partner. Over the past four years, SWAG has helped the City conduct street outreach, provide housing navigation, and offer case management services to chronic homeless individuals. In addition to street outreach, SWAG has operated The Anchor since it opened in December 2020. The facility provides 14 crisis stabilization housing units with up to 20 beds for chronic homeless individuals, for a duration of up to 90 days.

The partnership over the last four years has allowed the City of Lake Elsinore to establish a full-time street outreach team comprised of City code enforcement, the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station, and SWAG, which has resulted in a 53 percent drop in homeless residents from 2018 to 2022.

To date, street outreach services have been funded by a variety of grants including: California's Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP), and an Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (ESG-CV) from Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC). Since 2019, the City has secured approximately \$6 million toward its homeless efforts. Staff continues to seek all applicable grant funding available to assist in funding its homeless efforts.

### **Discussion**

In June 2021, the City of Lake Elsinore was awarded \$681,506.50 from the ESG-CV grant from the County of Riverside Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions Continuum of Care Division, to fund street outreach and emergency housing services during the Coronavirus pandemic. Street outreach services and emergency housing services are necessary for the City to continue taking an aggressive and progressive approach to homelessness. The City has used 73% (\$499,281) of this grant, and has \$182,225 remaining, which is expected to be expended by October 2022.

The proposed agreement provides funding to continue SWAG's street outreach and emergency housing services past October 2022. Street outreach services include conducting weekly outreach events in the City's "hot spot" areas, responding to homeless service requests, and assessing and providing assistance to homeless individuals. Funding for emergency housing services will be used to maintain an existing lease for three (3) units at the Elsinore Hot Springs Motel, for SWAG staffing, and to maintain and clean the units.

With ESG-CV funding coming to an end, the proposed professional services agreement aims to prevent an interruption in services in order to continue the City's mission to end homelessness. The ESG-CV grant has been used exclusively to fund these services since July 2021, however a new agreement is required prior to the grant being fully expended by October 2022.

Services related to the management of The Anchor facility are not included in this agreement.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact for FY22-23 will be partially covered by the ESG-CV grant provided by and reimbursable through the County of Riverside Housing, Homelessness Prevention, and Workforce Solutions Continuum of Care Division. All ESG-CV funding is expected to be expended by October 2022. The remaining balance of \$387,000 is included in the Annual Operating Budget.

### **Exhibits**

A – Agreement

B – Scope of Services