



## **REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

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

**From:** Grant Yates, City Manager

**Prepared By:** Nicole Dailey, Assistant to the City Manager

**Date:** September 24, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Agreement for Professional Services with Social Work Action Group

### **Recommendation**

Authorize the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Social Work Action Group (SWAG) in an amount not to exceed \$1,015,000 in such final form as approved by the City Attorney.

### **Background**

Since March 2018, SWAG has been providing street outreach services to homeless individuals in Lake Elsinore to assist them in exiting life on the streets. Since then, in partnership with the City and the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station, SWAG has helped more than 101 homeless individuals exit the streets.

Consistent, continued street outreach services is essential to the City's success in tackling and addressing homelessness in our community. To date, SWAG has contacted and started to build relationships with more than 121 homeless individuals in Lake Elsinore. Of these, the majority (over 70%) suffer from substance abuse and/or mental health challenges.

### **Discussion**

In March 2019, the City of Lake Elsinore, in collaboration with the City of Wildomar and the County of Riverside District 1 areas was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from California's new Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) through the County of Riverside.

This grant is being used to fund a comprehensive regional demonstration project to house homeless individuals through diversion/flex subsidies and rental assistance, and provides funding for outreach, navigation, enforcement, case management, supportive services into and during housing, and costs of staff, operations, administration, and supplies.

SWAG was identified in the grant submittal as the City's non-profit partner to provide all related homeless services. More specifically, as outlined in the Scope of Services attached to Exhibit A, SWAG will be tasked with providing full-service homeless services as requested for the region, i.e. Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, and surrounding County areas. This includes homeless street outreach services, housing navigation, ongoing case management and supportive services for those housed and removed from the streets, housing subsidies and rental agreements with

landlords, rental assistance for those who can be placed into more permanent housing, and community engagement and education.

The proposed professional services agreement is for an amount not to exceed \$1,015,000 through June 30, 2021, which is the end of the grant term. All costs will be covered completely by the HEAP grant. The proposed agreement is designed to remain flexible to ensure the region and SWAG can increase/decrease services as needed based on the demands of our communities and our homeless populations.

This agreement will allow us to greatly expand the region's homeless outreach services by expanding across city boundaries where services were not provided previously, ensuring continuous and consistent outreach efforts throughout the region, and providing a full-service agreement that will allow us to house the chronic homeless and streamline the transition from the streets to long-term housing.

The City has been satisfied with SWAG's performance and services and recommends the City Council approve this agreement to ensure ongoing, regular homeless street outreach services.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact is up to \$1,015,000 and will be covered fully through the HEAP grant provided by and reimbursable through the County of Riverside.

### **Exhibits**

A – Agreement for Professional Services for Homeless Outreach, Housing and Supportive Services