COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
of the County of Los Angeles
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Gloria Molina
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Commissioners

Carlos Jackson
Executive Director

October 16, 2007

Honorable Board of Commissioners
Community Development Commission of the
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Commissioners:

APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR SERVICES COSTS FOR UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE - LONG BEACH HOMELESS MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT IN THE CITY OF LONG BEACH (4)
(3 Vote)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the approval of funding for service costs at 2280 Williams Avenue on the grounds of the Century Villages at Cabrillo is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because the proposed funding will involve negligible or no expansion of an existing use.

2. Authorize the Executive Director of the Community Development Commission to transfer to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) up to $400,000 in County General Funds (CGF) funds allocated to the Fourth Supervisorial District, following receipt of said funds from the Chief Executive Office (CEO), which will then be granted to the United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach (U.S. Vets – Long Beach) for homeless services for homeless and mentally ill veterans, to be administered pursuant to an Interagency Agreement between the Commission and LAHSA.

3. Instruct the Executive Director to amend the existing Interagency Agreement between the Commission and LAHSA to provide that the Agreement between LAHSA and U.S. Vets – Long Beach does not allow any use of any portion of the CGF to correct any past, present, or future findings or repayment related to the Corporation for National and

Community Service Office of Inspector General's audit of its AmeriCorps grant.

4. Instruct the Executive Director to amend the existing Interagency Agreement between the Commission and LAHSA to provide that the Agreement between LAHSA and U.S. Vets shall be based on a cost reimbursement contract; LAHSA shall ensure that it will execute a reimbursable contract with U.S. Vets – Long Beach; and that advances to U.S. Vets will not be permitted. LAHSA may continue to request advances from the Commission to pay for approved cost reimbursement invoices received and processed by LAHSA for U.S. Vets – Long Beach under this Agreement.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

The purpose of the recommended action is to transfer to LAHSA CGF, which will then be granted to the U.S. Vets – Long Beach for funding to support homeless services customized for mentally ill homeless veterans on the grounds of the Villages at Cabrillo in the City of Long Beach, where they will expand their services to 50-60 homeless veterans each year.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The actions described herein will be funded with a portion of the $20,000,000 in CGF approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2005, to fund the construction and/or renovation of year-round emergency shelters and enhancements to the homeless support system.

On November 22, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved allocating $3,600,000 in CGF to each Supervisorial District with a ten percent administrative fee, in the total amount of $2,000,000, reserved for the Commission.

The proposed transfer of funds from the Commission to LAHSA will allocate $400,000 for homeless services specifically tailored for homeless veterans. The expansion of these services will be located in a currently vacant building at 2280 Williams Avenue on the grounds of the Century Villages at Cabrillo, a former Navy base that houses different programs for homeless individuals and families.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

In order to address the staggering numbers of homeless individuals and families and the corresponding critical shortage of beds in Los Angeles County, on June 20, 2005,

the Board of Supervisors approved allocation of $20,000,000 for the construction and/or renovation of year-round emergency shelters and enhancements to the homeless support system.

On November 22, 2005, the Board of Supervisors delegated authority to the Commission to administer the funding and oversee all of the projects. The Board also instituted a method by which each Board Office selects recipients of CGF based on agency experience and the need for homeless services in the community, among other considerations.

The proposed transfer of funds from the Commission to LAHSA is a total of $400,000 in CGF allocated to the Fourth Supervisorial District. LAHSA will administer and execute a contract with U.S. Vets – Long Beach for homeless supportive services such as, case management, life skills, money management, and other services to improve the lives of 50 to 60 people each year. The transfer of funds to LAHSA will be effective following the Commission's receipt of CGF from the CEO.

The Commission and LAHSA will amend their existing Interagency Agreement to provide that LAHSA shall ensure that the U.S. Vets – Long Beach will use the funds to support the costs associated with the services for which they have been contracted and cannot use any portion of the CGF to correct any findings related to the audit of its AmeriCorps program conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service Office of the Inspector General. This funding may, however, be utilized as a cash match under requirements set forth by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for existing Supportive Housing Program(s) at US Vets – Long Beach. LAHSA will continue to be able to leverage CGF for other existing grants. LAHSA will also ensure that its Agreement with United States Vets – Long Beach will indicate that reimbursement will be paid only for allowable costs actually incurred, and that advances to U.S. Vets will not be permitted.

A complete description of the U.S. Vets– Long Beach is provided as Attachments A and B.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

The proposed funding is exempt from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 58, Section 58.34 (a)(4), because it involves public service activities that will not have a physical impact or result in any physical changes to the environment.

The expansion of services to the vacant building at 2280 Williams Avenue is an allowable use for the Century Villages at Cabrillo, as approved by the City of Long

Beach's land use and zoning amendments on April 3, 1997. Therefore, the proposed funding is also categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guideline 15301 because it involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use.

IMPACT ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

Approval of these actions will allow for an increase in transitional housing, emergency beds and services available for homeless individuals, veterans and families in the County.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbette A. Glover

for CARLOS JACKSON
Executive Director

Attachments: 2

ATTACHMENT A
UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE - LONG BEACH
HOMELESS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

United States Veterans Initiative is a private nonprofit corporation established in 1992 to address the unmet needs of homeless veterans. The United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach is situated on the grounds of the Century Villages at Cabrillo, a 26 acre former Navy base which is home to programs for residential substance use treatment, job reentry, dual diagnosis, and rental assistance for disabled and senior veterans. This arrangement is designed to address the multiple needs of Long Beach's homeless veteran community by helping to break the cycle of homelessness.

The United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach is proposing the Homeless Mental Health Program (HMHP) as the 31st building at the Villages at Cabrillo. It is located at 2280 Williams Avenue. This building is currently not occupied due to lack of funding. The building is large enough to support two separate programs, so one half of the building will be occupied by a program serving homeless youth. The remaining half of the building is available for United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach to expand their services to include the HMHP. This program will serve homeless, mentally ill veterans and also add 10 new beds. These expansion beds will be used to provide long-term affordable housing for mentally ill homeless veterans contacted through the HMHP. It is a focused outreach program with partial funding by the Department of Mental Health of the County of Los Angeles. The goal of this program is to bring in 50-60 veterans each year.

Clinical staff from the VA and case management staff are located at the Villages at Cabrillo with offices in or in close proximity to the building where the residents will reside at 2280 Williams Avenue. One on one case management and support will be provided with case managers on site from 8 am to 8 pm, 5 days a week, and with resident assistants on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Upon admission to the HMHP, the veteran will meet with a case manager who will conduct a thorough assessment and an Anger and Conflict assessment. From these assessments, the case manager will work with the veteran to develop a Benchmarks Action Plan, which will focus on addressing specific problems, including medical, psychological, alcohol and drug issues, money management, family and social support deficiencies, and legal problems.

In addition to basic life skills, higher education and vocational training, when indicated, can be pursued through a variety of sources at the on-site Career Center, including local industries, Long Beach City College, an Employment Development Department Veterans Representative, VA Vocational Rehabilitation, and the local Workforce Development One-Stop system of the City of Long Beach.

Services Funds	$400,000
Total request	**$400,000**

ATTACHMENT B

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

June 14, 2007

LaCheryl Porter, Esq.
Project Manager
Housing Development & Preservation
Community Development Commission
2 Coral Circle
Monterey Park, CA 91755

Re: Housing for Mentally Ill veterans at Villages at Cabrillo, Long Beach

Dear Ms. Porter:

The program that U.S.VETS is proposing at Villages at Cabrillo, 2280 Williams St., Long Beach, will add 10 beds of long-term, affordable housing for mentally ill homeless veterans. These veterans have a psychiatric diagnosis, and with regular case management, they can achieve stability and can function on their own. This program is not for the chronically, severely disabled who need 24 hour care. The Action Plan the veteran creates with the case manager at entry includes any doctor or mental health appointments indicated, and regular interaction with the case manager will keep clients on this schedule. The Action Plan also includes therapeutic groups on site. The goal of the program is for the resident to acquire the tools of independent living and the schedule of appointments is to support this overarching goal.

Case managers are on site from 8 am to 8 pm, 5 days a week, with resident assistants on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Program participants will see a case manager as often as needed, but no less than once every two weeks.

There will be virtually no interaction between the youth program and the veterans program. The programs have separate entrances that are constantly monitored by staff, and staff is on site in both programs 24 hours a day. We have nearly 7 years of experience operating Villages at Cabrillo, where multiple populations, veterans, families and youth, are located in close proximity. There have never been any major incidents and only a few minor complaints that were addressed immediately.

As an example of how we address concerns of programs in close proximity, The Salvation Army had concerns about the GLASS Youth program moving next door because they had experience with a similar youth program and felt that the youth population would have a negative impact on their population, which was next door.

GLASS was able to mitigate these concerns by describing the high standards of their program, their client to staff ratio, which is 6 to 1, and the fact that their youth are never left unsupervised day or night.

We have contacted Community Care Licensing to ask whether there were any regulatory issues that would prohibit locating these two programs next to each other. Tira Logan, Licensing Program Manager, responded to this query by stating "The opening of this home will not pose any issues or concerns with CCL".

GLASS has also supported this view, and has offered their endorsement of the program being located next to them, as is verified below by their co-signature of this letter.

As a result of this opinion, and our long experience, we believe that locating this program for veterans in the building next door to the homeless youth program will not pose a risk to either population.

Please contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

Stephen Peck, MSW
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Dane Carswell
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