

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL

September 13, 2016

In the 2015 Notice of Funding Availability for homeless assistance funds HUD awarded the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) \$100,267,671. These federal homeless assistance funds provide desperately needed rental assistance and supportive services for a fraction of the more than 47,000 men, women and children homeless in Los Angeles County on any given night.

On July 25, 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published a notice seeking public comments on the CoC formula used in the allocation of Federal homeless assistance funds. In that notice, HUD presented four formula options which use allocation factors that are relevant to measuring homelessness, and also are accurate, timely, and readily available.

HUD indicates that the current CoC allocation includes some factors that are not statistically correlated with rates of homelessness in communities. The current formula historically has resulted in CoCs in California, such as the Los Angeles CoC, receiving a lower amount of homeless funding relative to the size of their homeless populations.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, which administers the Los Angeles CoC, is preparing to submit comments to HUD, which include detailed

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recommendations on how to better target homeless assistance funds to CoCs with high rates of homelessness. This includes support for the Formula D option, which uses weighted factors with the strongest combined statistically significant correlations with rates of homelessness of any of the four options as well as the current formula. Formula D would allocate funding based on poverty, the affordability gap, and a hybrid factor (multiplying the number of rent-burdened Extremely Low-Income households by the ratio of the jurisdiction's percentage of renter-occupied units divided by the national percentage of renter-occupied units). If Formula D were used, California would be entitled to \$23,751,166 more funding under the Preliminary Pro Rata Need than under the current CoC formula while the four CoCs in Los Angeles County would be entitled to a combined increase of \$15,549,597.

Communities currently receive allocations of Federal homeless assistance funds based either on their Annual Renewal Demand or their Preliminary Pro Rata Need. HUD is only seeking public comment on the Preliminary Pro Rata Need formula at this time. The Los Angeles CoC currently has a higher Annual Renewal Demand than Preliminary Pro Rata Need formula. While advocating for an improved Preliminary Pro Rata Need formula may not impact the Los Angeles CoC immediately, it will protect homeless assistance funding in Los Angeles should the federal government either limit funding or increase funding in the future.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that a five-signature letter be sent to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation, asking them to forward the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) comments on the Continuum of Care (CoC) formula to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and urging the Delegation to support LAHSA's recommendations, which would improve the targeting of Federal homeless

assistance funds to communities with high rates of homelessness.

S: MR/CoC Formula Motion