

**Peer Navigators For Homeless College Students**

In California, one in five community college students reports experiences of homelessness or staying temporarily with friends and family in the prior year. Among California community college students, 60 percent of 40,000 surveyed reported being housing insecure. In June 2017, the Board directed the Chief Executive Office to identify Rapid Rehousing and Peer Navigator resources for college students. A recent memo by the Chief Executive Office reports tremendous success with the Rapid Rehousing program and Peer Navigators.

In the Southeast Los Angeles area, a nonprofit organization funded by Measure H provides housing for local homeless or near-homeless community college students. The organization currently provides partial or full rental subsidies for 55 community college students in three community colleges (East Los Angeles College, Rio Hondo College in Whittier, and Cerritos College in Norwalk) with the assistance of Peer Navigators who help students find apartments and other resources. With housing and peer navigators, 79 percent have maintained enrollment in school, 20 percent have

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already graduated and 96 percent have maintained their housing. Peer Navigators are current community college students who have lived experience with homelessness. These efforts should be praised and replicated throughout the County.

**I, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. Redirect funding of up to \$700,000 from the \$1.5 million recommended in Strategy E7 for the HI Technology Innovations Request for Proposal (for which the CEO is pursuing alternative funding) to Enhanced Services for Transition Age Youth (E14) for peer navigators who will locate housing opportunities and services for homeless students at all community colleges in the County; and
2. Report back in 90 days on any other strategies such as Rapid Rehousing (B3) or Strengthen the Coordinated Entry System (E7) that could be used to expand and enhance housing opportunities for college students.

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