

November 8, 2022 Webinar on the Proposed Homeless Initiative FY 2023-24 Funding Recommendations

Question and Answers

The following responses are to six questions raised by webinar participants which neither the Homeless Initiative staff nor our lead agency partners were able to address verbally during the Q&A portion of the webinar. The six questions below have been copied verbatim from the questions participants entered into the webinar “chat” function.

- 1. DCFS Housing Related Assistance – Are there more details available on how this program is administered? Are the case management and navigation services offered to every single youth in a SILP/looking for a unit to rent to participate in the SILP program, or are there criteria for which youth in SILP are eligible for services? What exactly do the services funded through this program entail beyond the regular DCFS case management services provided by a young person’s CSW?**

RESPONSE: The purpose of the SILP-Plus funding is to assist youth, 18 to 21 years old, who are currently in foster care and in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP). The SILP-Plus funding is a one-time maximum of \$2,500, and can include first and last month’s rent, security deposit, as well as household furnishings. In the SILP program, each youth has an assigned Children’s Social Worker (CSW), but the youth is responsible for navigating and identifying their own housing. Once the youth has located their desired housing, the DCFS CSW is responsible for approving the housing that the youth has identified.

- 2. Housing Financial Assistance for TAY – what are the eligibility criteria for participation in this program? What is the duration of financial assistance for participants? Since this is not funded with federal dollars, is this program open to young people with open DCFS dependency cases?**

RESPONSE: Young adults, ages 18-24, experiencing homelessness are eligible to participate and will be identified through multiple entry points, including street outreach, shelters, and drop-in centers. Funding supports an evidence-based pilot that provides financial assistance for 24 months paired with optional support and case management. This pilot includes a longitudinal study that follows participating young peoples’ pathways and experiences over 2.5 years, including through surveys and analysis of administrative data. The question whether this pilot will be open to young people with open DCFS dependency cases will be examined during the pre-planning phase prior to FY 2023-24. Currently, in FY 2022-23 the pilot is not open to those DCFS-connected young adults.

- 3. Will any funding be dedicated for education services (i.e., Providing education and educating the community)?**

RESPONSE: Education and communication strategies are incorporated into many of the Homeless Initiative funded programs and services. This ranges from training and technical assistance provided to homeless services providers, media and communication campaigns providing information on programs and services available to people experiencing homelessness and how to access those resources, direct communication between service providers and clients, and public facing websites such as the [LA County Homeless Initiative Website](#) and [LAHSA Website](#). While there is not funding dedicated exclusively to education, providing and enhancing communication and education is embedded within most of the programs and services recommended for funding.

4. Has the County considered the actual pipeline of jobs this funding scenario will create and are there enough persons who will be available to apply for these jobs? Follow up: Just an idea whether any of this funding can be used for community college certification/degree to help create a stream of jobs needed?

RESPONSE: The expansions proposed in the funding recommendations will create more jobs. The homeless services sector, like many employment sectors, is experiencing increased challenges with workforce recruitment and retention. The Homeless Initiative participated in a recently completed analysis by global consulting firm KPMG that provides insights into the homeless service sector's staffing and structures and proposes a series of solutions to support recruitment and retention across the sector ([full KPMG report](#)). This effort was led by the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. The Homeless Initiative continues to be engaged as our community considers and plans next steps. In addition, the Homeless Initiative is working with other funders to assess reimbursement rates for outreach, interim housing, and case management in relation to scope of services and recruitment and retention challenges.

Funding recommended for "Employment for Adults Experiencing Homelessness" will provide employment opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. This program will increase access to opportunities for employment, education, training, and support services for individuals experiencing homelessness. These services include, but are not limited to, individualized career services and career planning, transitional subsidized employment, On-the-Job Training, occupational skills training that leads to industry-recognized credentials, and other training services to skill-up individuals; supportive services to address barriers to employment such as assistance with transportation and childcare; and stipends and incentives to help individuals successfully participate in services and encourage job retention. In addition, the County's workforce development system emphasizes the value of recognized postsecondary credentials, and community colleges are seen as a viable way to contribute to the growth of skilled and credentialed workers. Beyond Measure H funded programming, programs funded through other sources, such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, may be leveraged to expand the ability of our system to provide homeless job-seekers access to post-secondary education, certification, and training by helping to defray the cost of participating and enrollment in education and training, maximizing support of homeless job seekers as they gain new skills or retrain for a new field of work.

5. Can we get more details on how the LAHSA Employment Services Pilot? Will any funding be available to social enterprises and existing workforce developments at smaller CBOS?

RESPONSE: During the first year of LAHSA's Employment Services Pilot, services were provided in Service Planning Areas (SPAs) 1, 3, and 7 through three homeless services providers (i.e., the Coordinated Entry System Adult lead agencies in those respective SPAs). In FY 2023-24 the proposed funding increase for this pilot would allow LAHSA to expand pilot services countywide to all eight SPAs. Pilot services are delivered through 1) Employment Liaisons who are responsible for regional-level coordination with public workforce development entities and employers and 2) Employment Specialists who are responsible for providing direct employment services to persons experiencing homelessness.

The recommended expansion to LAHSA's Employment Services Pilot in FY 2023-24 will allow LAHSA to increase the number of providers funded and to explore building partnerships with social enterprises. These will be addressed during the expansion planning phase.

6. **I see a focus on outreach, but in SPA 7 we saw a decrease in this funding that trickles down to LCA leads and smaller CBOs via LAHSA. Will there be a focus on more local regions and opportunities for CBOs to get MDT teams rather than general teams?**

RESPONSE: The Homeless Initiative is working with the Department of Health Services (DHS) to increase Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs). DHS contracts with community-based organizations to provide MDT services. The increase in MDTs will increase outreach services regionally throughout the County.