



## INFORMAL STAFF REPORT

### MEMORANDUM

---

**To:** Margie C. Rose, City Manager *MR*

**Thru:** Keith Selman, Assistant City Manager *KS*

**From:** Rudy Bentancourt, Housing & Community Development Director *RB*

**Date:** October 6, 2017

**Subject:** Action Plan – Homeless Presentation/Recommendations

---

#### **Action Plan**

During the October 17, 2017 City Council Briefing – Homeless Update, City Council directed staff to create an action plan for each of the four (4) recommendations made during the briefing. The recommendations consisted of 1. Coordinated Entry, 2. Homeless Work Program, 3. Tent City / Tiny Homes, and 4. Family Reunification Program. This Informal Staff Report will address recommendation 1 and 4 which will become implemented by December 2017. The City's Housing and Community Development Department has identified \$115,000 in FY2016-2017 Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funding which are eligible for supportive services and must be expended by September 30, 2018. These funds will be used to address recommendations 1 and 4.

#### **Recommendation #1**

Coordinated Entry – is a process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs. Entry points are required in the community to effectively assist clients and provide the assistance and resources needed in a wholistic approach to homeless assistance. Coordinated Entry must be in place and implemented in Corpus Christi by January 2018 for the City and supportive service agencies to continue to receive state and federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

#### **Action**

The City's Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department has been working with The Salvation Army in becoming an entry point for Coordinated Entry. HCD and The Salvation Army have met and a Coordinated Entry Program Description has been provided and approved by the City. The Salvation Army is requesting \$35,000 to

perform this function and with the documented success of the program, HCD will continue to fund the program on an annual basis. HCD will assist with this recommendation by funding The Salvation Army an Intake Coordinator, to include outreach, to effectively reach the homeless target population requiring to be identified, assessed, referred and connected to housing and overall supportive services.

#### **Timeline**

November 2017 – Enter into a funding agreement to support Coordinated Entry with The Salvation Army and “Agency” in the amount of \$35,000.

December 2017 – Become federally compliant with the Coordinated Entry requirement of each community receiving state and federal funding to have Coordinated Entry in place.

#### **Recommendation #4**

Family Reunification Program –The program reunites a homeless individual or family with a support system who does not reside in Corpus Christi. The program requires extensive Case Management to ensure the homeless individual or family does not enter homelessness in the location they will be going. If a homeless individual or family arrived in Corpus Christi and is now homeless and would like to return home or if they have a strong support system outside of Corpus Christi, whether in Texas or out of state, the Case Manager will work with the family to receive them in order to ensure the individual or family does not fall into homelessness upon their return. Case Management will also link their client with supportive services in the receiving community. This requires extensive Case Management not only with the receiving family but with the supportive services in the location they will be received to prevent future homelessness.

#### **Action**

The City’s Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department has been working with The Salvation Army in funding of the Family Reunification Program. The Salvation Army has developed Program Guidelines of the Family Reunification Program which have been approved by HCD to effectively administer the program. The program is an allowable cost under ESG’s Homeless Prevention Activity and has been approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

#### **Timeline**

November 2017 – Enter into a funding agreement with The Salvation Army to support the Family Reunification Program in the amount of \$15,000.

December 2017 – Implement the Family Reunification Program and begin identifying eligible clients seeking reunification with their families.

#### **Conclusion**

Recommendations 1 and 4 have are to be implemented no later than December 2017. Recommendations 2 and 3 are continuing research and evaluation for efficiency and sustainability. Staff will bring forward a status update on December 12, 2018.