



Travis County Commissioners Court Voting Session Agenda Request

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Agenda Language:

Consider and take appropriate action to address homelessness and affordable housing in Travis County using LFRF/ARPA funds. (Commissioners Howard & Gómez)

Prepared By/Phone Number: David Salazar, Executive Assistant, 512-854-9280

Elected/Appointed Official or Department Head: Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Commissioners Court Sponsor(s): Commissioner Ann Howard and Commissioner Margaret J. Gomez

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Background/Summary of Request:

Travis County and our community has been faced with a homelessness crisis that has been seemingly aggravated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents have communicated with County leaders to urge the investment of LFRF/ARPA funds to address homelessness. Recently, community groups have come together and set a goal to rehouse 3,000 people over the next 3 years. The Commissioners Court shares a commitment to use our partnerships to deepen affordability and increase community resources to address homelessness and housing across the County.

Staff Recommendations:

Staff recommends the Court consider, discuss and take action to earmark ARPA funding to address homelessness and affordable housing issues in Travis County.

Issues and Opportunities:

Travis County has been allocated \$247,450,630 in Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the American Recovery Plan Act (LFRF/ARPA) which can be used to address public health needs including affordable housing and strategies to rehouse people experiencing homelessness.

Foundation Communities and Mobile Loaves and Fishes/Community First! Village have requested that Travis County invest \$50,000,000.00 of its available LFRF/ARPA funds, to create the Burleson Village, a new supportive housing community for approximately 700 new residents.

The Austin Area Urban League, Caritas, Family Eldercare, Integral Care, LifeWorks, and SAFE Alliance have formed the Travis County Supportive Housing Collaborative and have jointly requested that Travis County invest \$50,000,000 of its available LFRF/ARPA funds, to develop new affordable supportive housing communities at

different geographic locations across the County, for approximately 1000 new residents.

The Other Ones Foundation is in the process of constructing 200 additional tiny home units at Camp Esperanza near the corner of US Hwy 183 and Ben White Blvd. which will house 1 – 2 persons each. In addition, they are planning to include a community center to service this community where they will provide shelter for an estimated 300 persons at any given time which will include support services and rental assistance with a goal of rehousing 400 – 475 persons per year. The Foundation needs a total one-time capital investment of approximately \$3,000,000 to complete this project in partnership with Sunrise Church, Integral Care and Travis County Constable Precinct 3.

In addition to their project with Community First, Foundation Communities is in the process of design and construction on property acquired adjacent to the Laurel Creek Apartments near the corner of Lamar Blvd and Braker Ln. to establish their Juniper Creek Apartments to provide supportive housing to formerly homeless families with children which will consist of 100 new 100% affordable apartments with onsite case managers and parent support services, access to additional resources such as afterschool childcare, summer youth program, adult education classes, fitness classes, food pantry, and stabilizing services. Foundation Communities has budgeted \$20 million for the construction of this apartment complex and is in need of \$6.5 million to complete.

Fiscal Impact and Source of Funding:

Staff recommends earmarking approximately \$110,000,000 of LFRF/ARPA Funds to address the issue of Housing and Homelessness in the community.

Required Authorizations:

Attachments:

1. Supportive Housing Resolution 090821
2. Burleson Village proposal
3. TCSHC Fact Sheet
4. esperanza community 3D
5. Camp Esperanza Phase 1