

INDIAN WELLS HOUSING AUTHORITY

November 7, 2024



To: Housing Authority
From: City Manager Department
Prepared by: Catherine Manning, Management Assistant
Subject: **Grants-in-Aid Committee Recommendations for FY 2024-25 Homelessness Assistance Program Funding**

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Housing Authority **APPROVES** the Homelessness Assistance Funding recommendations provided by the Grants-in-Aid Committee totaling \$250,000 for the organizations listed in this staff report for Fiscal Year 2024-25; and

AUTHORIZES and **DIRECTS** the Executive Director to execute contracts for same; and

FINDS the action exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review under CEQA guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

BACKGROUND:

Under SB341, the Indian Wells Housing Authority can allocate up to \$250,000 per fiscal year of former redevelopment low-moderate funding to support organizations addressing and preventing homelessness in the Valley in addition to the \$160,000 General Fund allocation distributed by the Grants-in-Aid Committee each fiscal year. The Homelessness Funding Program is separate from the existing Grants-In-Aid Program and does not fiscally impact the Grants-In-Aid Program.

For Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the Housing Authority authorized the Grants-in-Aid Committee to evaluate Homelessness Assistance funding applications and provide the Authority with recommendations for the distribution of the \$250,000.

Analysis:

In August, the city hosted two education sessions for interested organizations to learn about the Homelessness Assistance program. Staff provided an overview of the program guidelines and application process and answered attendee questions.

The Grants-in-Aid Committee follows the same guidelines for Homelessness Assistance funding as it does for Grants-in-Aid funding, giving tax-exempt, non-profit organizations under Section 501(c)(3) with at least 5 years in business the opportunity to apply for funding to assist with homelessness-based services provided to the Coachella Valley. Eligible requests include expansion of initial service programs, the addition of a new service or program or special project, or the purchase of specific items, not related to start-up costs, but necessary to providing services. Funding cannot be used for staffing or salaries, fundraising, sponsorships, start-up costs, administrative or overhead expenses.

The Grants-in-Aid Committee reviewed each application to ensure they met the program guidelines and to understand their funding request. The Grants-in-Aid Committee met on October 8, 2024, to discuss funding recommendations for twelve (12) Homelessness Assistance Program requests totaling \$490,000.

After reviewing all twelve (12) applications, the Grants-in-Aid Committee recommends funding twelve (12) applicants for a total of \$253,000.

Recommended Organizations for Funding:

The Grants-in-Aid Committee recommends the Housing Authority allocate the \$253,000 of available Homelessness Assistance Funding as follows:

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission: recommended funding of **\$60,000** to support costs emergency food and shelter and to provide safe accommodation and nutritious meals to an increased number of individuals in need.

Desert Best Friend's Closet: recommended funding of **\$5,000** toward the Interview Attire Program, providing education and image consultation with an interview appropriate outfit for 50 homeless clients.

FIND Food Bank: recommended funding of **\$10,000** in support of the Mobile Markets to ensure that residents have consistent access to healthy, nutritious food.

Galilee Center: recommended funding of **\$25,000** to support the cost of providing shelter and other basic needs to people who would be homeless without the availability of this program.

Habitat for Humanity: recommended funding of **\$20,000** to support the Housing Insecurity Prevention Program to reduce low-income households housing and financial insecurity risks.

Jewish Family Services of the Desert: recommended funding of **\$18,000** to support emergency financial assistance paid directly to service providers for necessities.

Mama’s House Ministries: recommended funding of **\$20,000** to support costs of The Anne Silverstein Campus for Mama’s House.

Martha’s Village: recommended funding of **\$60,000** to support its Homeless Housing and Wrap-Around Services Program Expansion.

Olive Crest: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support community engagement initiative which is a volunteer-driven, community-based solution that helps prevent and end child abuse and neglect while strengthening families.

Operation Safehouse: recommended funding of **\$10,000** to support the Harrison House Transitional Living and Permanent Supportive Housing Program for older homeless youth ages 18-24.

Shelter from the Storm: recommended funding of **\$10,000** to support costs of the 24/7 Crisis Hotline and Safe Haven Shelter.

Well in the Desert: recommended funding of **\$10,000** to support the cost of providing meals to the homeless in the community

Each organization that will receive funding is required to execute a Funding Agreement with the City documenting the authorized use of funds and will, at the conclusion of the Fiscal Year, provide the City with a report on how the funds were utilized and the impact those dollars had on the organization and the community it serves.

OPTIONS:

The Housing Authority options:

1. Approve the Grants-in-Aid Committee’s recommendation to allocate Homelessness Assistance Funding as outlined in this staff report; or
2. Provide alternative direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No additional appropriation required. The Homelessness Assistance Program utilizes \$250,000 in housing funds already allocated within the Housing Authority budget.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):

The action is not a project within the meaning of Section 15378 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Guidelines, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change in the environment, directly or indirectly; and that the action is

nonetheless exempt from the requirements of CEQA in that the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (14 CCR 15061(b)(3).)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Funding Allocation Spreadsheet