



Homeless Services
Panel of Experts

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 12, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Homeless Services Panel of Experts

Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Acting Chair, Homeless Services Panel of Experts

Subject: Serving inclement weather needs, RV dwellers, and other vehicle dwellers through the Encampment Mobile Mental Health Wellness Team, as is feasible, within parameters of the state-approved project plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council refer to staff to include providing services to meet inclement weather needs of the unhoused and provide services to RV, and other vehicle, dwellers, as is feasible, within the parameters of the state-approved plan.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The fiscal impacts have already been met under the state-approved Mental Health Services Act plan for an Encampment Mobile Mental Health Wellness Team to provide mental health wellness services to support unhoused persons in encampments in Berkeley for 4-5 years for a total of \$2.8 million dollars in MHSA monies.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The state of California has already approved a plan for 4-5 years for Berkeley to implement an Encampment Mental Health Wellness Mobile Team which provide support services in a client-centered manner, to encampments of unhoused persons. Under this plan, the services would be provided consistent with the unhoused persons wishes as to what they want and need to promote their mental health wellness. This plan will be implemented with Mental Health Services Act monies for a total of about 2.8 million over a 4-5 year period. The provider has been selected but not yet, publicly announced as of this writing.

Last year, the unhoused, who were unsheltered, suffered a brutal winter where they often were left without equipment and warm clothing. In particular, they were in need of tents, rain gear and clothing such as gloves and hats. It is expected that these inclement weather needs will continue unless provisions are made for regular delivery of these items.

Serving inclement weather needs, RV dwellers,
and other vehicle dwellers

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RV dwellers, and other vehicle dwellers, are a visible number of unhoused persons in the community who also have wellness needs and could benefit from the Encampment Mobile Mental Health Wellness Team consistent with the state-approved plan.

BACKGROUND

On July 13, 2023, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts passed the following motion:

Action: M/S/C Wachspress/Meany move to Council to refer to staff to include providing services to meet inclement weather needs of the unhoused and provide services to RV, and other vehicle, dwellers, as is feasible, within the parameters of the state-approved Encampment Mobile Mental Health Wellness Team.

Vote: *Ayes:* Meany, Hynes, Kealoha-Blake, Bookstein, Feller, Jones, Wachspress and Marasovic.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

With client-centered mental health wellness services provided by the Encampment Mental Health Wellness Mobile Team, there should be an improved environmental and climate impact. The services to RVs and vehicle dwellers and meeting inclement weather needs of all of Berkeley's unhoused encampments should further improve those impacts.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Homeless Services Panel of Experts appreciates the MHSA state-approved plan for Encampment-based Mobile Mental Health Wellness Team services. Incorporating meeting inclement weather services' needs, such as providing warm clothing and tents, and defining encampments to include RVs and other vehicle dwellers, should be easily accomplished, if feasible, within the parameters of the state-approved plan.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

To leave the plan standing as is.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's report.

CONTACT PERSON

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