



City Council Report

Date: November 7, 2022
To: City Council
Through: Christopher J. Brady, City Manager
From: Natalie N. Lewis, Deputy City Manager
Subject: ARPA funds for expanded East Valley Men's Center services Citywide

Purpose and Recommendation

Approve resolution to authorize the City Manager to enter into a \$250,000 contract with A New Leaf to increase in total by 40% the number of Mesa men receiving temporary housing and support services at the East Valley Men's Center (EVMC) in FY22/23 through FY23/24, and which will be funded by Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Background

The EVMC is a critical provider for men experiencing homelessness in Mesa and the region. Clients referred to EVMC find staff prepared to offer a continuum of services and resources and creating a seamless transition for the client from emergency/temporary housing to transitional/semi-permanent housing with a housing stability plan in place. Support partners connect clients to the services they need, such as behavioral healthcare, medical healthcare, and assistance with courts. In alignment with the City of Mesa's Homelessness Strategic Action Plan, EVMC provides for clients' basic needs, promotes camaraderie and social skills, offers workforce development services, assists clients with financial literacy and budgeting, and provides many other supportive services to address clients' housing stability and additional social determinants of health. Men at the Center are able to remain in the program for up to 120 days; and the Center has 110 beds.

Discussion

Unsheltered homelessness in Mesa, the region and nationally continues to increase. While the City of Mesa has implemented the "Off the Streets" emergency, temporary housing program, the City is prioritizing service at this program hotel for Mesa's most vulnerable populations, i.e., women, youth, elderly and those with disabilities. As such, we need added capacity and a place to serve more men experiencing homelessness. A New Leaf has agreed to work with the City to prioritize Mesa-based men's entry into their program, and to be another tool to ensure Mesa retains the ability to offer a bed as the City enforces urban camping. This contract will increase service to men experiencing homelessness in Mesa in total during the next two years by at least 40%. In general, this equates from serving 70 men per year

from Mesa to a minimum of 87 men each year.

The success of program services at EVMC will be measured by the following outcomes:

- 85% or more of shelter clients will report an increased knowledge of community support services to commit to a path of recovery and to help maintain long-term housing and health stability
- 65% or more of employable adults will maintain or increase their current income
- 50% or more of clients will report securing safe, affordable housing upon exit
- 85% or more will demonstrate an improvement in assessment scores in one or more areas based on the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

Alternatives

Staff recommends that City Council approve this resolution to provide authority to the City Manager to enter into a contract with A New Leaf to increase the number of men in Mesa receiving services by 40% total during the next two fiscal years.

Council may take no action or deny approval of this agreement. No action or denial would result in similar level of service as experienced previously at the EVMC and would not add capacity needed to help the Off the Streets hotel focus on other, more vulnerable population of homeless, i.e., women, youth, elderly and those with disabilities.

Fiscal Impact

If approved, the City will enter into a contract with A New Leaf and will fund these services up to \$250,000. Funding will be from the American Rescue Plan Act dollars provided directly to the City of Mesa.

Coordinated With

Community Services Department, City Manager's Office

Attachments

Resolution