

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
HOUSING AUTHORITY

TO: HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMISSIONERS
FROM: KELLI KUYKENDALL, ACTING HOMELESS SERVICES
MANAGER
SUBJECT: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
POTENTIAL HOUSING PREFERENCES FOR HOUSEHOLDS
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Housing and Community Services Department that the Housing Authority, by motion, support the following: 1) inclusion of language in Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) to provide a preference or priority to households experiencing homelessness engaged through the Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST); and 2) outreach to Borrowers within the Housing Trust's loan portfolio to evaluate incorporating a preference or priority to households experiencing homelessness engaged through HOST into property waiting lists.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recommended motion provides staff with the opportunity to incorporate language into NOFAs and conduct outreach with current affordable housing property owners and managers to consider identifying and reserving a set number or percentage of vacant units for households experiencing homelessness engaged through the Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST). Such action will provide an opportunity to assist households that are currently experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness with immediate access to affordable housing.

BACKGROUND

Staff has identified several methods to encourage current and perspective affordable housing complex management companies and developers to provide units to households experiencing homelessness. The inclusion of language in the Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) for Santa Rosa Housing Trust fund loans promoting identifying a set number or percentage of units for households experiencing homelessness engaged through HOST may be beneficial to the community.

Staff also sees it to be beneficial to conduct outreach to property managers that currently have units restricted via Housing Authority Regulatory Agreements to consider identifying a set number or percentage of vacant units for households experiencing homelessness engaged through HOST.

HOST, operated by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa and funded by the City, is a street outreach team that actively works in our downtown area to engage unsheltered homeless persons into services and housing. HOST works in collaboration with the Police Department's Downtown Enforcement Team and other service providers such as Social Advocates for Youth and Buckelew Programs.

PRIOR HOUSING AUTHORITY REVIEW

On February 27, 2017, the Housing Authority conducted a study session and requested that this topic return for action.

ANALYSIS

The inclusion of language requesting that perspective developers identify a set number or percentage of vacant units to be set aside for experiencing homelessness engaged through HOST is an opportunity to challenge housing providers to assist with the community's homeless issue.

Similarly, conducting outreach to existing property managers provides an opportunity to access the City of Santa Rosa's housing stock, already subject to restrictions, that require they serve extremely low-, very low- and low-income households. While all households that are accessing these units benefit from the units set aside for specific household incomes, the proposed outreach and future participation by property managers has the potential to assist households that are currently experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness with immediate access to affordable housing.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on any Housing Authority funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

COUNCIL/BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Sample Letter to Property Owners and Managers

CONTACT

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