
Homeless Services Advisory Committee

Mayor's Fund Subcommittee

Date: June 14, 2024

Item: Urban Social Services and Advocacy Mayor's Fund Application

Staff Analysis:

The staff reviewed the proposal on June 14th, 2024, submitted by Tatiana Turner.

Urban Social Services and Advocacy ("the Agency") is a non-profit organization created in 2020 by Tatiana Turner to help provide enhanced case management and wrap-around services to people experiencing homelessness in disadvantaged communities. As a justice-impacted woman founder Tatiana has a firm understanding of the unique challenges and obstacles people face during re-entry and transitional phases of life. The Agency operates out of their Long Beach office located at 3605 Long Beach Blvd #325 Long Beach CA 90807. The office is open Monday- Friday from 9 -5 pm and clients are seen by appointment or walk-in. At this location, clients can be connected to advocacy services, case navigation, Narcan distribution, mutual aid, wound care, street medicine, harm reduction education and distribution, DMV verifications for low-income individuals, housing navigation, peer support, client advocacy, community supports, CalWORKS Kids State Savings Account and more. Tatiana and her team are committed to providing the best quality services and resources to their clients, through street outreach, word of mouth, marketing campaigns, and referrals from their partnered service providers.

The Agency has partnered closely over the past year with the Orange County Department of Health and is a recipient of the Equity in OC Grant Initiative. They worked with Cal Optima as part of their Nonprofit Health Care Academy and as part of the Chip Equity Initiative in Orange County the agency received \$69,500 collectively in funding for projects. The Agency collaborates with the Homeless Service Bureau, Department of Health, and they are part of the Reentry Advisory Committee within the City of Long Beach. The Agency has built a robust network of organizations to connect clients to a variety of services and help reach those in disadvantaged communities. The agency has access to the Los Angeles HMIS and is hoping to obtain Long Beach Clarity access to serve more clients through this partnership.

The Agency's commitment to the community is evident. They are actively seeking to collaborate and integrate with the Long Beach Homeless Services Bureau and the Long Beach Continuum of Care, aiming to build a working relationship through the Mayor's Fund. This partnership would help connect the same clientele into the Long Beach system, furthering the shared goal of addressing homelessness in the community.

Urban Social Services and Advocacy proposal requests a total of \$10,000, \$5,000 of which would be through an advanced payment. They serve 300 clients on average in a month based on specific needs. The request is for \$1,800 in personal cost, \$1,700 in vocational training and or equipment for work including online training, \$1,000 in emergency grocery assistance, and \$5,500 for clothing assistance for job interviews and job supplies or school uniforms, rental assistance, moving expenses, utility payments, emergency shelter, stay in place shelter and transportation costs.

The proposal fits the intent of the Mayor's Fund for Action as it supports the broad themes of move-in and immediate shelter needs, helping people stabilize and reach self-sufficiency. Staff shares the sentiment that smaller community service providers help build trust and rapport within the population and are the intention of the Mayor's Fund's goal of building community. Staff does have some concerns with the eligibility of participants into their programs and would want to request that clients served within this program are unsheltered homeless and/or fall under the 30% AMI limits as listed under the Housing Authority website.

As of April 30, 2024, the Mayor's Fund for Homeless Action has a balance of \$126,374.82 with approximately \$131,718.94 in available funds.

Clarifying Questions via E-mail and phone call:

- 1. Can you confirm this location 3605 Long Beach Blvd #325 Long Beach CA 90807 is where you are currently operating from, are clients able to come into the office, if so, what are the hours/days of operation?**

Yes, this is the location we operate out of for Los Angeles County services.

Yes, clients can come by appointment. They can walk in as well and we see them if we are not on another appointment, or sometimes they can wait. As far as hours of operation, we're basically Monday through Friday 9 to 5.

However, because we do appointments, we pretty much just go with the flow and try to accommodate people so if they need to talk to her after I get off

work or something like that, etc. etc. or on the weekend. So, we kind of work seven days a week.

2. How many people do you expect you can serve?

That's a hard question to answer... We're going for quality more than quantity. So, we want to utilize the funds for both direct housing needs like rent relief, deposits etc., and tenancy, which includes helping people with life circumstances that might hinder them from continuing their housing. Such as not having gas for work or not having a job or needing boots for that job, etc. We feel that qualitative care is just as important as quantitative. So, we will serve all those who are in need as they come.

3. Have you worked with the Homeless Services Bureau, the Multi-Service Center, or any of its affiliates?

Yes, we work with the homeless service's bureau all the time getting supplies, and they come to our office with pallets full of goodies that we distribute to the LBC communities. We work with the Harm Reduction homeless service bureau to distribute harm reduction materials like from, test strips, condoms and syringes as well s things like hygiene clothes, food water drops etc. We also work with the Department of Health and am a member of the syringe Work Group and we are listed as a place you can come get harm reduction materials on the City of Long Beach website. We are also on the Reentry advisory committee with the city of Long Beach. And work with the Reentry community both returning an existing. Who often face barriers to housing upon returning.

4. Do you have access to Long Beach CES and if so, through Long Beach Clarity HMIS? Or HMIS in general?

We do have access to Los Angeles HMIS. However, we do not have access to the Long Beach clarity and are hoping that this will help us gain access to that, so we can serve more people. Even if we do not receive this grant, any help furthering that endeavor would be greatly appreciated. We already have an account with HMIS, just so you know.

5. In the past year what kind of work/contract have you had? Are they with government agencies or homeless service providers? Can you list a few government partnerships that you had/have?

For the past year, we partnered closely with the Orange County Department of Health as a recipient of the Equity in OC Grant Initiative. We also worked with Cal Optima as part of their Nonprofit Health Care Academy where we were trained to understand all the different disciplines that go along with community social service work, such as housing, homelessness, the new CalAIM initiative, as well as the justice involved-and other communities that lack proper access to health-necessities-, including whole person care. And have been involved in the recent initiative to incorporate whole person care into the clinical realm. We are a part of the chip equity initiative in Orange County, helping to formulate a plan for the department of health to incorporate whole-person care services and equity into OC. This initiative was centered around Kalle and whole person, care and housing people through Cal AIM, and utilizing different resources in the community with an emphasis on housing first. We received \$69500 collectively, in funding from these projects.

6. How do you receive your clientele? Are they being referred to the program and/or is there street outreach?

Street outreach, word of mouth, referral system, we have a wide network of service providers that we outreach too daily. Through our marketing campaign. And receive referrals from those service providers.

7. How did you hear about the Mayor's Fund?

I work with the city and get letters and emails from different people in the city all the time. I believe somebody emailed this to me. I think it was Andrew from the Harm reduction bureau.

Questions regarding Cost Breakdown

8. On the Cost breakdown sheet, what type of invoices/receipts can we expect to see under personal costs?

receipts from gas cards, or if we pay volunteers cash for their time. There will be an explanation document along with our receipt of the transaction, which would probably be in the form of a photocopy of the check or money order tied to document 2 that has the explanation.

Website: https://socialserviceadvocacy.com/?page_id=1091