



## **CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

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**DATE:** JUNE 22, 2021

**DEPARTMENT:** COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**FROM:** MEGAN HUNTER, DIRECTOR

**BY:** ROD POWELL, PLANNING MANAGER

**TITLE:** PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TINA LA PERLE FOR FY 2021-2022

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

A motion to approve a resolution for a Professional Services Agreement with Tina La Perle for Homeless Services Intervention and Coordination.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Community Development Department (CDD) recommends that City Council approve a Professional Services Agreement with Contractor for Homeless Services Intervention and Coordination in an amount not to exceed \$116,112.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Since 2019, in order to ensure an effective use of funds and the identification and utilization of “best practices” in regard to the provision of homeless services, the City has utilized the professional services of Tina La Perle under an Agreement for Professional Services. These Agreements have leveraged funding from multiple local, state and federal sources including California Housing and Community Development (HCD) California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) and California Department of Health Care Services (DHSC) Whole Person Care (WPC) funds. Ms. La Perle’s expertise has been critical in helping CDD staff leverage resources, secure additional funding, address gaps in homelessness, develop the Salinas Outreach and Response Team (SORT), and refocus efforts on permanently housing our unsheltered population.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Homelessness is a serious and ongoing problem in the City and throughout the County and requires support among the City and County for the preservation of public peace, health, and safety of our community. The number of homeless individuals and families has persisted countywide. Persons experiencing homelessness are at high risk for physical and mental health issues, and other chronic illnesses. The City has been proactive in allocating funding and resources toward the issue of homelessness. The City continues to allocate General Fund, HUD and HCD ESG Programs, HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, WPC and HCD CESH Program funding to help reduce homelessness in the community. In addition, the City recently created the Salinas

Outreach and Response Team (SORT) to provide essential outreach and engagement services to the homeless population during the Shelter in Place order and opened the sleeping quarters at the Chinatown Navigation Center to provide more shelter beds. Without Ms. La Perle's guidance on these issues, staff would not have the capacity or technical knowledge to make such significant strides on homelessness.

#### DISCUSSION:

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Ms. La Perle's services have been instrumental in assisting the City conduct vital outreach and identify effective, safe practices to house and protect vulnerable, homeless City residents in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the pandemic. The proposed Agreement seeks to continue to leverage the existing WPC, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grants (HUD ESG-CV); and California Department of Housing and Community Development Emergency Solutions Grants COVID (HCD ESG-CV) funding sources to allow for additional capacity building with community partners and agencies, the identification and implementation of proven methods and programs, and a continued, effective progression of thoughtful comprehensive community outreach to those experiencing homelessness within the City.

The proposed PSA will assist in providing oversight, guidance and support to awarded CESH Round 2 agreements, provide response continuity services through comprehensive, essential outreach and engagement along with SORT, support implementation of new projects with new partners, and collaborate with landlords, property managers, and stakeholders in increase the pool of housing options for unsheltered residents to gain and to retain housing, during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding for this PSA will be as follows: \$50,000 from WPC, \$40,000 from HUD ESG-CV Administration funds, and \$26,112 from HCD ESG-CV administration funds, for a total of \$116,112.

#### CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Guidelines Section 15378. CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This Agreement for Services will help advance the following City Council strategic goals: 1) Operational Efficiencies; 2) Public Safety by providing services of a clinical social worker who has expertise in homelessness to help the City use its limited resources effectively and help address public safety issues associated with homelessness.

DEPARTMENT COORDINATION:

This agenda item is solely administered by the City’s CDD Housing Division. However, other City departments that contributed with their staff time and resources included Finance and Legal. The CDD Housing Division also collaborated with the County Health Department.

Department	Contribution
Finance	Assists in helping manage expenditures related to the Agreement for Services.
Legal	Provides legal guidance on all contracts and legal documents related to this agenda item.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund as the funding for this Agreement for Services is proposed to derive from County WPC Program (\$50,000), HDU ESG-CV (\$40,000) and HCD ESG-CV (\$26,112).

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution
- B. Draft Agreement for Services