



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 03/05/2024

ITEM NO: 7

DATE: February 28, 2024
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Authorize an Additional \$10,000 from the County of Santa Clara County Grant for Unhoused Los Gatos Residents to Be Used for the Hotel Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize an additional \$10,000 from the County of Santa Clara County grant for unhoused Los Gatos residents to be used for the Hotel Program.

BACKGROUND:

On January 24, 2023, the Town Council reaffirmed its Strategic Priorities and added a new one to support the unhoused residents of Los Gatos. This addition was reaffirmed on February 13, 2024.

On April 4, 2023, a majority of the Town Council allocated \$50,000 to support unhoused residents. Of those funds, \$10,000 was allocated to the Shower Ministry, \$20,000 was allocated to a temporary restroom, and \$20,000 was allocated to the Hotel Program to provide hotel rooms for unhoused residents during instances of extreme weather, unhealthy air quality, and certain medical needs.

In December 2023, the Town received a \$50,000 grant from Santa Clara County (County) to use towards support for unhoused Los Gatos residents. Supervisor Simitian worked with the Town Manager's Office to create the proposal in light of the Town's \$50,000 investment in services for unhoused residents. While initial discussions regarding the grant indicated the funds would be used for case management for the unhoused, the County has confirmed the funds can be used for any support services for residents experiencing homelessness. Grant funds must be expended by the Town by June 30, 2024 and are one-time funds.

PREPARED BY: Katy Nomura
Assistant Town Manager

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

PAGE 2 OF 3

SUBJECT: Funding for Hotel Program for Unhoused Residents

DATE: February 28, 2024

BACKGROUND (continued):

On February 6, 2024, the Town Council authorized \$10,000 of the County grant to be used for the Hotel Program.

DISCUSSION:

The Hotel Program (Program) launched in December 2023. The Program is only available to regular members of our unhoused community who actively participate in the Food Pantry and Shower Ministries hosted by the faith community. Currently, there are 19 people that may participate and are on a pre-screened list that is managed by the faith community.

Since launching, the Program has activated for 19 nights due to weather related events and had two qualifying medical stays, resulting in 189 total rooms booked over the course of the program. Of the 19 individuals that may participate, 14 have utilized the Program. Participants have expressed sincere gratitude for the shelter provided during inclement weather. The Program has been a success in large part due to support from the Town Council, the faith community, dedicated Town staff, and our hotel partners which include the Los Gatos Lodge, the Garden Inn, and the Best Western.

While the Program has strict criteria to reserve a hotel room only for the most extreme conditions, the high utilization depleted the original \$20,000 allocated to the Program and has almost exhausted the \$10,000 from the County grant allocated on February 6, 2024. With approximately \$3,600 remaining, the Program would be able to support two additional nights of activation. With more rain on the way, staff anticipates these remaining nights will be used in the coming weeks and recommends allocating an additional \$10,000 from the County grant to the Hotel Program. The remaining \$30,000 in grant funds, and any unused funds from the Hotel Program, will still be used towards case management for unhoused residents. Staff is also pursuing the possibility of an additional \$5,000 in grant funding specifically for the Hotel Program. If staff is successful in securing this additional grant, the funds from the County grant will be replenished by \$5,000.

Staff will continue to monitor weather conditions and are handling funding requests incrementally, only when needed. An update to Council on the Hotel Program is tentatively scheduled for March 19, 2024 to allow for further discussion and direction.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Council authorize an additional \$10,000 from the County of Santa Clara County grant for unhoused Los Gatos Residents to be used for the Hotel Program.

PAGE 3 OF 3

SUBJECT: Funding for Hotel Program for Unhoused Residents

DATE: February 28, 2024

COORDINATION:

The preparation of this report was coordinated between the Town Manager's Office and the Finance Department.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The \$50,000 for the County grant has already been received and no additional budget allocation is needed for this action.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.