

The accompanying proposal is the work of several faith community members* who through their ministries work with the Town's unhoused residents. It reflects years of this experience and also the priorities put forth by several unhoused residents at two different forums in 2023.

It is our understanding that \$25K of ARP Funds are available now for spending on priorities for our unhoused residents. With this in mind, the \$25K may best be directed to the immediate need for a 24 hr porta potty (ies) and hotel vouchers or an account set up at town hotels for emergency needs of our unhoused residents. It is also our understanding that \$300K in Town grants will become available for application June-July 2023. St Luke's Pantry will apply for a grant (having never received Town financial support in the past) , and Los Gatos United Methodist Church will apply for shower cleaning again.

Our proposal for future funding includes a permanent 24 hr accessible Town bathroom, permanent funding for cleaning of showers without using the grant process, and a Case Manager. Left out of our proposal is the need for an emergency shelter during a weather crisis. We recognize that these needs cannot be addressed through \$25K in funding. However, these are true needs for the Town and we hope in the months and years to come their study and implementation can be realized.

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PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT UNHOUSED RESIDENTS
Presented to Los Gatos Town Council April 4, 2023

Submitted by members of the Downtown Faith Community: St Vincent de Paul, Los Gatos United Methodist Church and St Luke's Episcopal Church

1. Funding to support part-time Town Case Manager (CM) approx \$20k-\$40K

Need

Unhoused clients (approximately 20 men and women) in town have a variety of unmet needs that not only causes personal harm but societal harm as well. A lack of medical and dental care, lack of healthy food, mental health problems, addictions, no safe housing, lack of personal safety, ongoing threats from the environment, and difficulty accessing the bureaucracy for assistance leads to:

- clients living in unsafe areas around town
- lack of access to health care that leads to increased visits to the emergency room, increased costs and more health problems for issues that could have been prevented
- interactions with the police due to untreated mental health conditions and addictions
- clients unable to access county, state and federal services that could remedy many issues sighted above.

As an example of current conditions, in March 2023, an unhoused resident was severely beaten and robbed in Town. Members of our faith community brought him to the hospital, secured and paid for 10 nights at a hotel for his convalescence, provided meals and replaced his sleeping bag, tent, clothes, shoes and ID card. He suffers from mental health issues, which may have lead to his being beaten and robbed. He still suffers from severe headaches and needs secure housing and regular medical care, which he cannot begin to tackle without the aid of a regular, trusted, case manager

Case managers can make an enormous impact on the lives of these people. After the January 2023 rain event, an unhoused resident staying at the temporary Red Cross shelter at Camden Community Center took advantage of the services offered by a Case Manager on site. This resident secured temporary housing (a tent) and was put on a waiting list and soon received a Tiny House placement.

Proposed Solution – Case Manager for the Unhoused

Duties of an Outreach CM could include:

- enrolling persons into the HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)
- helping secure benefits such as food stamps, social security and disability insurance
- navigating medical services
- connecting with housing resources including section 8 applications, short term shelters and emergency shelters. We have been told that without a CM, clients have no chance of securing housing.

Outreach CMs in nearby Communities

In discussions with West Valley Community Health Services (WVCHS) we have learned that cities in the West Valley area have funded CMs to serve their communities. We estimate that the needs of our clients could be met with a .25 - .5 FTE CM, at the cost of \$20K - \$40K, perhaps shared with another community.

2. Funding for Cleaning of Showers for the Unhoused -\$7,800

Need

Unhoused people without access to showers pose personal hygiene risks, as well as public health concerns. Multiple health problems result from lack of cleanliness. Unshowered clients resort to using public water sources and bathrooms to attempt to get clean. When the showers temporarily closed for 3 months in 2019 during COVID, residents and businesses complained that unhoused people were severely unkept and dirty, and were causing more disturbances due to not being able to access a shower. At the weekly Shower Ministry at Los Gatos United Methodist Church, clients receive a paper shower, toiletries, fresh socks and underwear, a bag lunch and laundry vouchers provided by St Vincent de Paul.

Proposed Solution

For the past 3 years, the town has generously provided partial payment for weekly cleaning the showers as part of the Shower Ministry for the Unhoused at Los Gatos United Methodist Church. We initially received funds as part of the town's response to the COVID pandemic. Since 2021 yearly we have received \$4,000 and \$5,750 by successfully applying to the Town of Los Gatos Community Grant Application for Non-profit Organizations.

We request that we no longer be asked to submit a yearly grant and subsequent report, but that due to the ongoing essential need for weekly showers for the unhoused, the Town provides funding for a full year as part of the budget process. Cost- \$150/week, \$7,800 per year

3. Public Restrooms

Need

Currently the Town does not have any public restrooms available downtown. This disproportionately impacts the unhoused who have no homes, and by definition, no such facilities. This not only causes individual concerns, but threatens public health and safety. The unhoused, and business customers and owners would all benefit from public restrooms.

Proposed Solution

We recommend that the Town furnish public restrooms in the downtown area and include funding for them in the 2023-24 capital budget. Also, as a temporary measure, we recommend the Town provide portable toilets until permanent restrooms are completed.