



CITY OF MILPITAS AGENDA REPORT (AR)

Item Title:	Receive report from Homelessness Task Force
Category:	Community Development
Meeting Date:	2/1/2022
Staff Contact:	Sharon Goei, Building Safety and Housing Director, 408-586-3260 Robert Musallam, Housing and Neighborhood Services Administrator, 408-586-3275
Recommendation:	Receive report from Homelessness Task Force.

Background:

At the December 15, 2020 City Council meeting, at the request of the Mayor, Council directed staff to place an item on the January 5, 2021 Council meeting agenda related to creating a Homelessness Task Force. At the January 5, 2021 City Council meeting, Council approved the establishment of a new ad hoc Homelessness Task Force. The task force would be comprised of up to ten resident members. Its purpose is to expand resident participation in addressing homelessness issues within the City and provide solutions, feedback, and input that will contribute to improving the quality of life of the Milpitas community, neighborhoods, and residents.

Ten members were appointed to the task force by the Mayor with input from the Council. Appointed to the task force were the following members: William Lam, Sanae Alexander, Jeremy Bevington, Ferdie Centeno, Ricky Davis, Martha Lamdin, Norma Morales, Lisa Moreno, Barbara Jo Navarro, and Tingna Xu. The following three members subsequently resigned from the task force: Ricky Davis, Martha Lamdin, and Lisa Moreno.

Ten monthly meetings have been held by the task force from March 2021 through January 2022, with the exception of July 2021. Staff has been serving in a facilitator role to coordinate meetings, assist task force members during discussions, and provide updates related to unhoused services. The analysis section below summarizes the task force discussions during those meetings.

Analysis:

The first task force meeting was held on March 10, 2021. The task force voted to select William Lam as the Chair and Sanae Alexander as the Vice Chair. Overall, the first meeting provided an opportunity for members to introduce themselves to the community, discuss the role of the task force, and begin initial logistical discussions as to how to best maximize their use of time and resources.

Subsequent meetings in April and May 2021 allowed staff to provide the task force with information about compliance with the Brown Act and the City's Open Government Ordinance. The task force discussed member availability and decided to meet on a monthly basis. During April and May, staff provided information and resources on homelessness, including the City's programs on homeless response and prevention. Additionally, staff invited the Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing to give a presentation on the 2020-2025 Santa Clara County Community Plan to End Homelessness. County representatives also shared information regarding their Homeless Engagement and Access Team for homeless outreach and assessment. Through these initial meetings and information gathering sessions, the task force began to explore possible areas of focus. Examples of the ideas and areas the task force desired to explore are listed below:

- Housing (both permanent affordable housing and temporary housing/shelters)
- Food and clothing

- Education and job training
- Substance abuse rehabilitation services
- Homelessness prevention
- Helping people access benefits and resources
- Community safety
- Litter and pollution
- At-risk youth and McKinney-Vento students
- Multi-lingual social/emotional services for individuals experiencing homelessness

Task force members also discussed goals and objectives for the Homelessness Task Force:

- Help the unhoused move into housing for the homeless
- Provide resources, support, restore dignity and plan for prevention through our unhoused services
- Find cost effective solutions for the unhoused to create a safer community
- Provide input/feedback on the challenges faced by families and students and find a sustainable and innovative solution to help the unhoused and McKinney-Vento students in Milpitas

From June through September 2021, the task force synthesized their ideas into program areas that would then become the basis of the Homelessness Task Force's plan. The plan created program areas of outreach and community communication, temporary housing, prevention program, work program, and accountability and community safety.

The task force assigned members to program areas in June. In August and September, task force members explored their program ideas, conducted research, presented on program topics, and gave one another feedback. The task force was asked to identify resources that would be required for each program idea. Members noted that resources, including funding and personnel, would need to be determined depending on program direction. The task force also discussed the format of the task force report presentation to the City Council.

From October 2021 through January 2022, the task force held robust discussions on their program areas and report presentation slides to the City Council. Task force members reviewed and edited slides, providing further input on program areas in each meeting. The task force approved the slide presentation and selected task force members to deliver the presentation to the City Council. The task force outlined their presentation into the following main program areas:

- Milpitas Homelessness Help Center
- Temporary Housing Programs
- Homelessness Prevention Programs
- Work and Self-Sufficiency Programs
- Accountability

Please refer to Attachment 1 for the presentation of the Homelessness Task Force report that delineates the program areas in detail.

At the February 1, 2022 City Council meeting, the Homelessness Task Force will provide its report and presentation to the City Council.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact to receive a report from the Homelessness Task Force. However, depending on Council feedback on the report, there may be future fiscal impact in terms of funding or personnel cost to conduct research or implementation. It is important to note that the current low staffing capacity has necessitated focus on work plan items associated with federal or state requirements. Additional staffing resources will be required to conduct any further research or implementation related to the Homelessness Task Force.

California Environmental Quality Act:

The action being considered, the mere acceptance of a report, has no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). If the City Council is inclined to explore any of the recommendations made in the report, staff will conduct a CEQA analysis, or verify the applicability of a CEQA exemption, prior to any discretionary action to approve or move forward with any recommendation.

Recommendation:

Receive report from Homelessness Task Force.

Attachment:

1. Presentation of Homelessness Task Force Report

City Council Meeting

Homelessness Task Force Report

February 1, 2022

City of Milpitas

455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035
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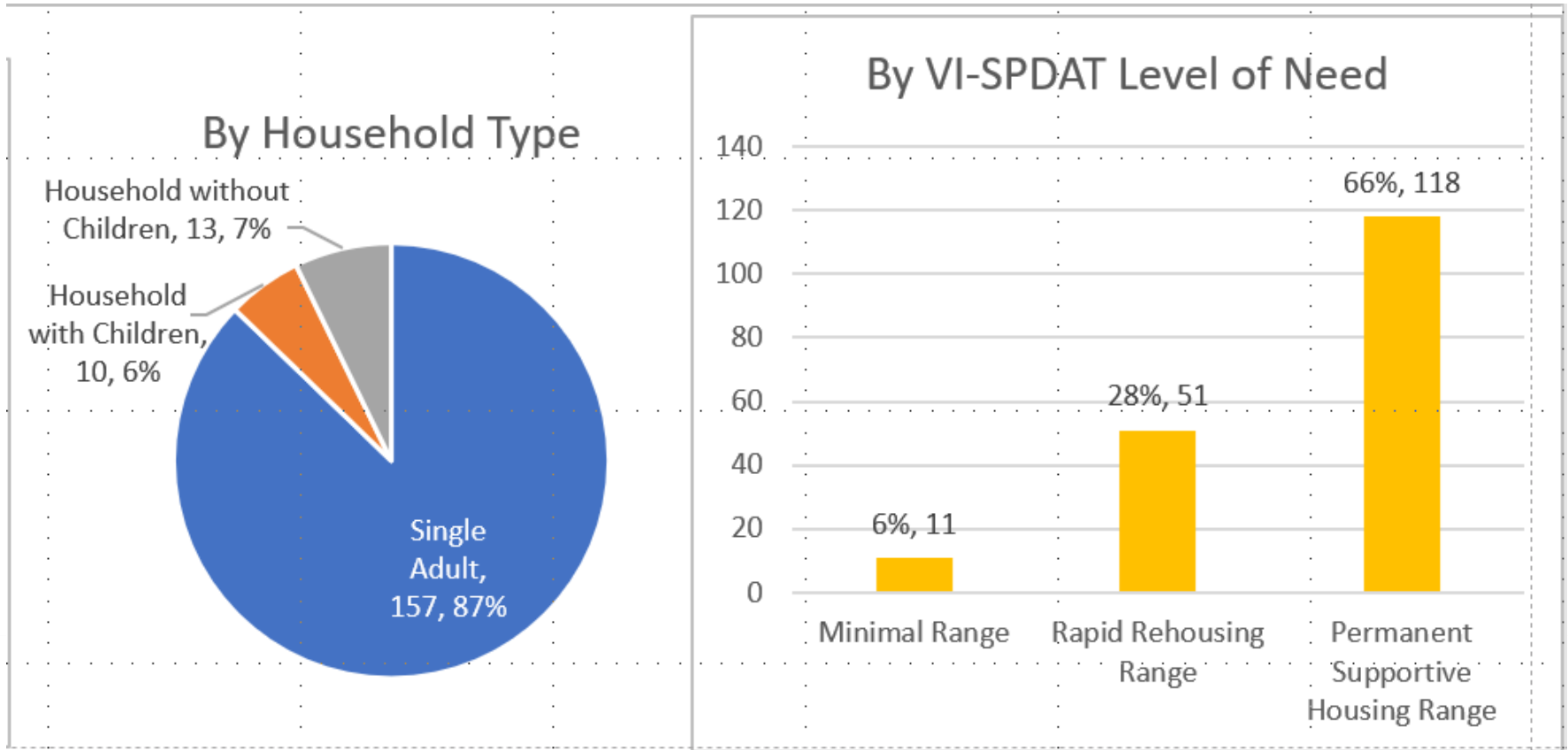
Presentation Outline

- Homelessness in Milpitas
- Task Force Overview, Goals, Members
- Task Force Program Ideas
- Receive Report from Task Force



Milpitas Affiliated Households Waiting for Housing

- 6,298 households in the Community Queue (Countywide)
 - 180 households are “affiliated” with Milpitas
 - 169 households scored in the RRH or PSH range



Homelessness Task Force Overview

- On January 5, 2021, the City Council, upon the request of Mayor Tran, approved the establishment of a new Ad Hoc Homelessness Task Force with up to ten community members.
- The purpose of the Task Force is to expand resident participation and provide solutions, feedback, and input that will contribute to improving the quality of life of the Milpitas community, neighborhoods, and residents.
- Monthly meetings except July
- Staff facilitates meetings and provides updates on programs



Homelessness Task Force Overview

- **March:** Welcome, introductions, selection of Chair and Vice Chair, role of the task force, logistics
- **April:** Brown Act training, possible areas of focus, staff shared resources on homelessness
- **May:** Presentation by County Office of Supportive Housing, task force goals and objectives
- **June-Sept:** Explore programs focused on outreach and community communication, temporary housing, homelessness prevention, work and self-sufficiency program, accountability and community safety
- **Oct-Jan:** Review, edit, and approve slides to be presented to City Council, and select Task Force representatives to deliver the presentation

Homelessness Task Force Goals

- Help the unhoused move into housing for the homeless
- Provide resources, support, restore dignity and plan for prevention through our unhoused services
- Find cost effective solutions for the unhoused to create a safer community
- Provide input/feedback on the challenges faced by families and students and find a sustainable and innovative solution to help the unhoused and McKinney-Vento students in Milpitas



Homelessness Task Force Members

Chair William Lam

Martha Lamdin

Vice Chair Sanae Alexander

Norma Morales

Jeremy Bevington

Lisa Moreno

Ferdie Centeno

Barbara Jo Navarro

Ricky Davis

Tingna Xu

Members that resigned from Task Force:

Martha Lamdin, Lisa Moreno, and Ricky Davis

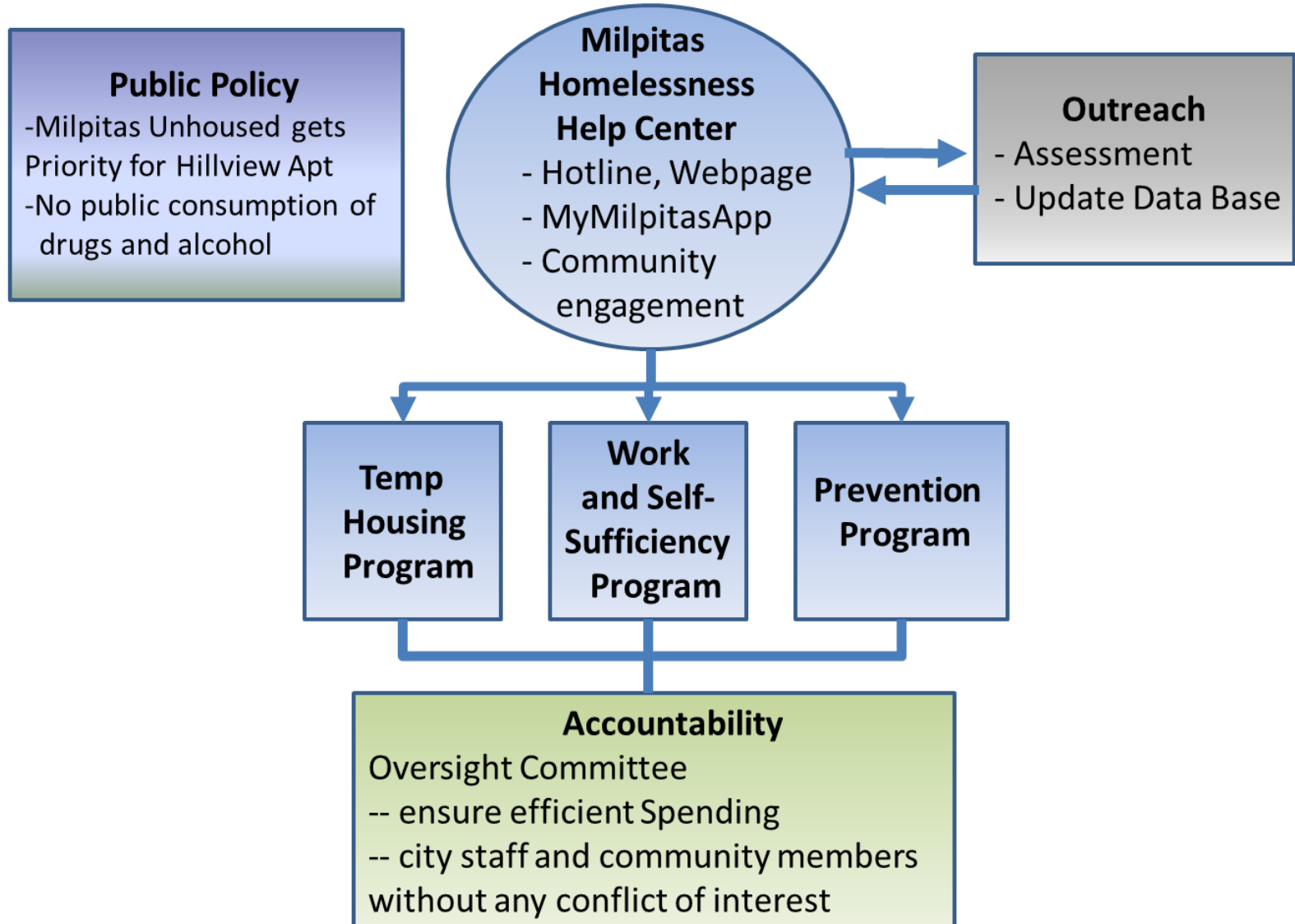


Homelessness Task Force Report

- Plan Overview (Chair Lam)
- Program Ideas:
 - Milpitas Homelessness Help Center (Chair Lam)
 - Temporary Housing (Vice Chair Alexander)
 - Homelessness Prevention (Vice Chair Alexander)
 - Work and Self-sufficiency (Chair Lam)
 - Accountability (Chair Lam)



Milpitas Homelessness Task Force Plan Overview



Milpitas Homelessness Help Center

- Purpose: increase public information on homelessness resources, programs, and concerns
- Staff person at City Hall who can respond to questions and receive community feedback with language accommodation (e-mail, hotline, or walk-in)
- Webpage with local and county resources, oversight committee schedule
- Create a new category on the MyMilpitas App to facilitate outreach to the unhoused
- Community involvement and awareness of programs
- Example: Resource fairs and pop-up events



Temporary Housing Programs

- **City-sanctioned encampment or safe parking areas**
 - Purpose: Transition to permanent housing. Assistance with self-reliance, self-esteem, pride, dignity, etc.
 - Safer, more stable alternative to encampments; transitional
 - RVs and tents with showers, toilets, laundry, running water, garbage pick-up and food service
 - Assessment and case management
 - Example: City of Fremont, Mountain View, Union City



Temporary Housing Programs

- **Temporary shelter and resource center with giving priority to families, seniors, working individuals, and youth aging out of foster care system (17.5 to 22 years of age)**
 - Purpose: Transition to permanent housing. To build independence, quality of life, self-reliance, hope
 - Create a new congregate shelter with beds, food, daycare, employment resources, financial coaching and more
 - Possibly use an abandoned church building or vacant warehouse
 - Assessment and case management
 - Public-private sector collaboration
 - Example: St. Mary's Center in Oakland



Temporary Housing Programs

- **“Tiny home” transitional housing**
 - Purpose: Transition to permanent housing. Assistance with self-reliance, self-esteem, pride, dignity, etc.
 - Faster to construct and much lower cost than permanent housing (shipping containers can be prefabricated, are movable and scalable)
 - Non-congregate housing allows for more privacy and security
 - On-site services, assessment, case management, amenities
 - Explore subsidy for homeowners who host unhoused in Accessory Dwelling Units
 - Explore funding for homeowners or organizations to build tiny homes on their property
 - Example: City of Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle’s “The BLOCK Project”

Prevention Programs

- **Connect with McKinney-Vento households; expand childcare**
 - Purpose: Identify and assist at-risk residents, youth, and MUSD McKinney-Vento households and increase child-care options
 - More robust outreach to McKinney-Vento households
 - More connections to services and organizations like LifeMoves
 - More outreach in various languages
 - Expand day care options so parents can go back to work and avoid falling into homelessness
 - Example: After the Bell and YMCA after school programs



Work and Self-Sufficiency Programs

- **Rewards for litter pick-up and job training**
 - Purpose: Create a work program to help with self-reliance, self-esteem, pride, dignity and to beautify the City.
 - Stage 1: Provide gift cards or food vouchers to unhoused residents who clean their own encampments, parks, freeway entrances, and other key areas
 - Stage 2: Motivated candidates are referred to SCC work program to train for professional skills
 - Reach out to neighborhoods, corporations, local organizations to volunteer and support the program
 - Refer workers to programs through NovaWorks, Goodwill, Downtown Streets Team and more
 - Example: City of Elk Grove

Accountability

- **Local Oversight Committee**

- Purpose: Ensure tax dollars are spent efficiently on unhoused programs
- Create a 7-9 member committee to oversee City spending on homelessness
- Committee approval for all expenditures
- Review 911 calls and crime reports related to unhoused residents



Recommendation

- Receive report from Homelessness Task Force



A photograph of the City of Milpitas building at dusk. The building is a modern, curved structure with a light-colored facade and large glass windows. The interior lights are on, and the sky is a deep twilight blue. In the foreground, a fountain with several jets of water is illuminated from below, creating a shimmering effect on the wet pavement.

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