



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** November 27, 2018

Approved

Date

11/27/18

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL HOMELESSNESS REPORT AND HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

## RECOMMENDATION

Accept memo by Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers Jones and Davis regarding Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP) funding and future Annual Homeless Reports and add the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that San Jose emergency homeless assistance programs support families with children or dependent family members:
  - a. Include the systematic tracking of programs that provide services to families as part of all future metrics collected;
  - b. In aggregate, require that 50% of HEAP funding serve homeless families with children or homeless youth, and report back to Council about the feasibility of expanding this requirement to homelessness emergency services more broadly;
  - c. Incorporate McKinney-Vento child homelessness data into all geographic analysis for site selection of future programming, including but not limited to those expanded through HEAP;
  - d. Require that each contract expanded under HEAP not contain any stipulations that would exclude children or dependent family members from accessing services;
  - e. Require that HEAP grantees coordinate with Kid Connection system of care as a condition for any expanded, amended, or future contracts providing services to families with children.
2. Before executing any contract expansion, conduct evaluations of each contract eligible for HEAP funding and issue an informational memo to Council;
3. Bring forward proposals in the 2019-2020 budget process that support data and performance based strategies.

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**BACKGROUND**

I'm grateful to the Housing Department and the City's Auditor's Office for working together to improve our city's homelessness response for more than 4,000 of our unhoused residents. While the lack of affordable housing is a significant barrier that impedes the success of the Department's "Housing First" strategy, we can do much more to enhance the services we oversee for families, youth, and individuals by taking critical measures to develop stronger data around each strategy area. Without truly knowing the effectiveness of each program and how families and youth are being served concisely, we fall short of our responsibility as a City to respond to our local unhoused families in a strategic and compassionate manner.