

COUNCIL AGENDA: 04/07/2020
ITEM: 8.1

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Maya Esparza

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 04/07/2020

Approved

Date 4/07/2020

SUBJECT: SHELTER CRISIS DECLARATION FOR COVID-19 EMERGENCY

RECOMMENDATION

1. Direct the City Manager to allocate \$4 million in Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) funds for the Homeless Prevention System COVID-19 Financial Assistance Program.

BACKGROUND

The economic strain of this crisis has resulted in an extraordinary increase in the number of low income households in our communities who are now facing severe housing instability. We know that the most effective way to address homelessness is through prevention, and the need for these services in our community has never been greater. So many of our residents are facing an increasing amount of desperation, and we need to rise to meet their needs in this unprecedented crisis.

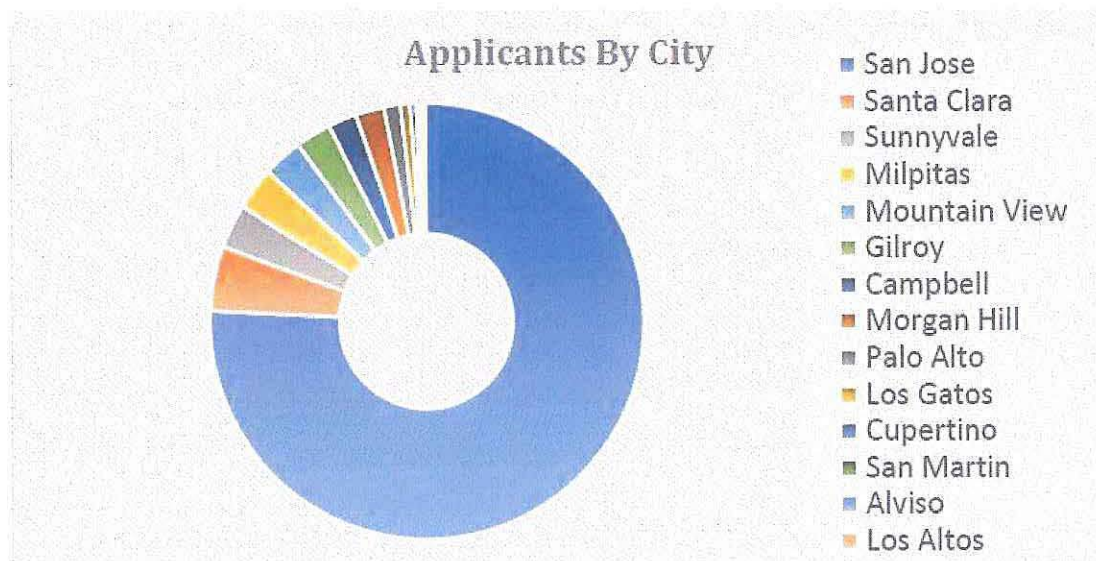
The City of San José has contributed \$2 million so far into this effort, out of \$11 million. Meanwhile, the data tells us that three-quarters of the applicants who have applied for assistance under the COVID-19 Financial Assistance Program are San José residents. As of the morning of April 6th, 2020, the Program had received 4,544 applications for assistance, and had 7,830 applicants who have been put on an "interest list" after the exhaustion of the initial available funds. Roughly half of these applicants are from extremely low income households, meaning those earning \$43,900 or less for a family of four.

The data (below) illustrates the dire need for prevention services and assistance right here in San José, and while I appreciate the inspiring generosity of our private, philanthropic, and other governmental partners, we as a city ultimately bear the responsibility to aid our residents in dire need of assistance. And these are our residents.

I also understand the urgent need to protect and aid our unsheltered residents; however, if we do not act swiftly and aggressively in the wake of this crisis to assist those at risk of homelessness,

we will see the number of families and individuals out on our streets skyrocket. Although we understand the steep cost of aid, the cost of more and more of our low-income families losing their homes will be a far greater one, one that will be measured not in terms of dollars, but in terms of lives and human suffering.

Given the incredibly urgent need for prevention resources, I implore my colleagues on the Council to join me in recommending the allocation of \$4 million of our Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention funds to the Homeless Prevention System COVID-19 Financial Assistance Program. Thousands of our residents are counting on us.



City	Count	%
San Jose	3267	75.80%
Santa Clara	206	4.78%
Sunnyvale	141	3.27%
Milpitas	139	3.23%
Mountain View	126	2.92%
Gilroy	115	2.67%
Campbell	91	2.11%
Morgan Hill	91	2.11%
Palo Alto	54	1.25%
Los Gatos	32	0.74%
Cupertino	19	0.44%
San Martin	11	0.26%
Alviso	6	0.14%
Los Altos	6	0.14%
Saratoga	6	0.14%