



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Mayor Sam Liccardo  
Councilmember Sergio Jimenez  
Councilmember David Cohen

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** January 8, 2021

**APPROVED:**

**DATE:** *January 8, 2021*

*Sam Liccardo Sergio Jimenez David Cohen*

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR THE HOMELESS HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Accept staff's recommendations regarding the proposed expenditure plan for Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Program Round 2.
2. Direct staff to create a "lived experience" member seat on the Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC), to be filled by a resident who is currently experiencing or formerly experienced homelessness. This recommendation is in line with the City's approved Residential Anti-Displacement Strategy #4: "Increase Equitable Representation of Historically Underrepresented Communities on City Commissions." This requires an amendment to the municipal code regarding the Housing and Community Development Commission provisions.
  - a. The selection process should include broad and robust outreach to homeless and formerly homeless residents to obtain a diverse pool of applicants.
  - b. Establish a compensation model for all HCDC members to eliminate any financial barriers to participation by a lived experience HCDC member. Utilize HHAP Round 2 funding as appropriate and allowed under the funding guidelines.
  - c. Incorporate new guidelines and resources for onboarding lived experience HCDC members, including ensuring equitable access to participation, through resources such as technology, connectivity, information, and training.

- d. Consult with Destination:Home, homeless advocates, and others who serve the unhoused and homeless community to determine best practices, including staff support and potential barriers to participation for a lived experience HCDC member. Many organizations, groups, and individuals in San José can make helpful recommendations based on their experiences and work, such as from Santa Clara County's Continuum of Care Lived Experience Advisory Board.

### **Background**

The Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Round 2 State funding program incorporates in its funding priorities, "Establish a mechanism for people with lived experience of homelessness to have meaningful and purposeful opportunities to inform and shape all levels of planning and implementation, including through opportunities to hire people with lived experience."

We appreciate the State dedicating one-time funds once again to aid the City's efforts to address homelessness. Many more resources are needed, and in the meantime, we must leverage State funding the best we can. One of those ways is adopting a formal approach of "nothing about me without me."

The City's Housing staff already engages residents with lived experience in policy and program development as a best practice. The residents we serve through these policies and programs should have a seat at the table and representation on the HCDC so that we can learn from their lived experiences to address and implement successful solutions.

Our appreciation to Robert Aguirre for suggesting that the City bring in voices from the community from those who have lived experience with homelessness.