

Item 8B

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
May 8, 2017**



Staff Report

Subject: Homelessness Update: West Valley Housing Navigation Program

Contact: Cheryl Dahlin, Management Analyst (cdahlin@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Discussion

Homelessness Committee: (4/19/17) Approved RFI submission from Path of Life Ministries and directed staff to move forward with the contract process.

Background: The Request for Interest for a Program Operator for Addressing Homelessness through West Valley Housing Navigation Program was released February 24, 2017. The submission deadline was March 14, 2017. CVAG staff received two submissions from Path of Life Ministries (POLM) and Mr. Bruce Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes later notified staff that he will have to withdraw his application.

The RFI Review group met prior to the April Homelessness Meeting and recommended to the Homelessness committee to approve the RFI submission from Path of Life Ministries and direct staff to move forward with the contract process.

Staff has determined that the POLM submission is responsive to the RFI. This applicant is a private, nonprofit organization headquartered in Riverside. POLM has been providing homeless services for over 12 years. They are governed by an eight member Board of Directors and Damien O'Farrell serves as their chief executive officer. POLM supports a Housing First program model and employs 45 staff who are engaged in Emergency Sheltering, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing. The organization receives funding from private donors and public sources such as US Department of Housing and Urban Development (through the Riverside County Continuum of Care), FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program, and Community Development Block Grant programs.

POLM proposes delivering WWHNP services from one location (to be determined) in each of the three cities - Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, and Cathedral City. Using a staggered staffing schedule, coverage will be provided 7 days a week from 7am to 9pm.

Homeless Prevention and Diversion (HPD) services will be achieved through emergency rental assistance, housing navigation assistance, and supportive services such as security deposits, utility assistance, and case management services. POLM intends to provide HPD services to 20 households per month. An additional 12 households will receive rental assistance, utility assistance, and supportive services for up to 6 months.

Crisis Stabilization Housing (CSH) programming will ensure that individuals in emergency housing exit quickly into stable non-emergency housing. POLM intends to provide 6-10 beds of emergency housing in Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, and Cathedral City through the leasing of up to 4 rental properties in each of these cities. Clients may stay up to a maximum of 90 days.

Fiscal Impact: The total annual budget required by POLM to provide requested HPD and CSH services is \$864,737.22. The Homelessness committee already directed staff to ask cities to budget a place holder.

There is no fiscal impact to the Homelessness program as staff time is charged to CVAG's General Fund.