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CLERK OF THE BOARD
ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Agenda Item

AGENDA STAFF REPORT

ASR Control

MEETING DATE: 04/21/2020
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): All Districts
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Vice Chairman Andrew Do
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Chris Wangsaporn (714) 834-3110
 Veronica Carpenter (714) 834-3110

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Funding Assistance for Housing, Homeless, and Overall Response

CEO CONCUR N/A	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW N/A	CLERK OF THE BOARD Discussion 3/5 Vote
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2371

Budgeted: N/A **Current Year Cost:** N/A **Annual Cost:** N/A
Staffing Impact: No **# of Positions:** 0 **Sole Source:** N/A
Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A
Funding Source: N/A

Prior Board Action: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

1. Direct the County Executive Officer to coordinate with the Homeless System of Care providers and the Orange County Housing Finance Trust to prepare a joint letter seeking funding on Housing and Homeless.
2. Direct the County Executive Officer to add to the County's Legislative Platform support for items that enhance and provide additional resources to the response, recovery, and economic impacts of COVID-19.

SUMMARY:

Orange County will need additional federal and state resources in order to effectively address the long-term effects of COVID-19, particularly for homeless or housing insecure residents.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since 2015, the Orange County Board of Supervisors has taken a number of actions to address housing affordability and homelessness that include: building and serving emergency shelters, creating permanent supportive housing, working with state legislators and cities to create the Orange County Housing Finance Trust, and developing a more effective System of Care supported by the Director of Care Coordination position.

On February 26, 2020, the Orange County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency and County Health Officer Dr. Nichole Quick declared a local health emergency as part of broader preparedness efforts related to the Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Since that time, Orange County, as a region, has increased services and support for homeless individuals including social distancing in shelters, access to physical and mental health care services, and implementation of Governor Newsom's Project Roomkey for COVID-19 positive individuals and vulnerable individuals who are homeless.

The State of California has provided funding and resources to address homelessness during this pandemic; however, more resources with greater flexibility in use will be needed to implement sustainable solutions that permanently house and comprehensively serve the needs of Orange County's homeless and housing insecure residents.

Today's action authorizes the County Executive Officer (CEO) to work with the Orange County Housing Finance Trust and the robust network of the County's System of Care providers to send a letter to the Senate and Assembly leaders requesting the creation of a statewide plan, with funding, to address housing and homelessness that extends beyond the emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis.

If approved, the CEO will also add to the County's legislative platform the ability to support any legislation or budgetary action related to the impacts of COVID-19.

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors recently approved a similar plan. It is critical that counties statewide seek state and federal funding to the COVID-19 response.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

N/A