COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: March 19, 2013 **12**

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: SECURING MORE RESOURCES FOR THE COUNTY'S HOMELESS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

SUMMARY

Overview

Each year, the County of San Diego applies for federal allocations of homeless services funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the County's Department of Housing and Community Development and the Regional Continuum of Care. HUD has used these formulas for decades to determine the amount of funding for each applicable region nationwide. Unfortunately, these outdated formulas continuously put the San Diego area at a disadvantage in terms of the funding it can receive.

These formulas were originally crafted to service high density populations on the nation's East coast. As West coast urban and homeless population densities increased, the formulas were not amended to adequately address the growing homeless population in San Diego County.

HUD funding is utilized to address a wide array of services, including transitional housing, shelter plus care, rental assistance, data tracking services, and rapid rehousing to protect citizens from falling into a deeper state of homelessness.

Yearly assessments of the region's homeless population show that San Diego County has the third largest homeless population in the United States, following only New York and Los Angeles. Yet, San Diego ranks eighteenth on the list of the actual funding amount made available from HUD to address homelessness, leaving 15 other regions that receive more funding than San Diego that have fewer homeless on their streets.

Today's board letter directs the Chief Administrative Officer to begin an active legislative effort to revise the outdated formula and allow the San Diego region to receive our fair share of these federal dollars.

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Recommendation(s)
CHAIRMAN GREG COX AND SUPERVISOR RON ROBERTS

1) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Chairman's signature to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to change the funding formula for dollars dispersed to our region to address homelessness and bring San Diego in line with regions of similar size and comparable homeless populations, and to share the letter with the San Diego congressional delegation.

2) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to add to the County's Legislative Program and Guidelines and provide the authority to support federal legislation that would update the funding formula for dispersing HUD-related monies for the San Diego Region to a more equitable equation that takes into account the size of the region and the number of homeless persons that reside here.

Fiscal Impact
There is no fiscal impact with this action.

Background
Each year, the County of San Diego applies for federal allocations of homeless services funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the County's Department of Housing and Community Development and the Regional Continuum of Care. HUD has used these formulas for decades to determine the amount of funding for each applicable region nationwide. Unfortunately, these outdated formulas continuously put the San Diego area at a disadvantage in terms of the funding it can receive.

These formulas were originally crafted to service high density populations on the nation's East coast. As West coast urban and homeless population densities increased, the formulas were not amended to adequately address the growing homeless population in San Diego County.

San Diego County is dedicated to serving all homeless, particularly homeless families, children and veterans. While the County's innovative and efficient approach allows for these dollars to be used wisely, a more equitable distribution of HUD funds will enhance essential services for the region's large homeless population.

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The Mayor of San Diego recently announced that he will be leading a lobbying effort to persuade the federal government to revise its HUD funding formula just as this board letter sets out to do. Working jointly, the City and County may be more effective in bringing more housing dollars to the region.

With approval of today's action, the County will begin an active legislative effort to revise the outdated formula to allow the San Diego region to receive our fair share of these funds.

We urge your support for the recommendations in this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

GREG COX
Chairman, First District

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan
These recommendations would help accomplish the County's Strategic Initiatives and advance the County's Vision of providing a safe, healthy and thriving community for all our residents.

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: [ ] Yes [X] No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
[ ] Yes [X] No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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