

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 30, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual/SKYPE Meeting

Call-in number: 1-323-776-6996 Access Code: 498935018#

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Legislative update 10 minutes
(Angela Ovalle, CEO)
3. Business Relief Funds update 15 minutes
(LACDA, DCBA, WDACS)
4. Worker Resiliency Fund update 5 minutes
(WDACS)
5. Sole Source Agreement with the Hospitality 5 minutes
Training Academy and Contract with Restaurants
to Provide Meals to Older Adults
(Otto Solorzano, WDACS)
6. COVID-19 Portal and Website update 15 minutes
(DCBA, CEO)
7. COVID-19 related Board items/report backs 5 minutes
(various)
8. Public comment 5 minutes

NOTE:

Please send comments to EconomicDevelopment@ceo.lacounty.gov by Wednesday April 29 at noon. They will be shared with the Committee prior to the meeting.



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Hilda L. Solis
Mark Ridley-Thomas
Sheila Kuehl
Janice Hahn
Kathryn Barger

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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Otto Solórzano
Acting Director

"Connecting communities and improving the lives of all generations"

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION TO IMPLEMENT AN EMERGENCY FEEDING PROGRAM IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND REQUEST TEMPORARY DELEGATED AUTHORITY
FOR WDACS TO ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY DURING THE COVID-19 LOCAL
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order ("Order") requiring all California residents to stay at home or at their place of residence as a result of the Novel Coronavirus pandemic. However, this Order also stated that the supply chain must continue, and that all California must have access to necessities such as food. To provide essential economic stimulus to local businesses and workers while helping older adults and other vulnerable individuals to stay at home, on Friday, April 24, 2020, Governor Newsom announced a new initiative, the Emergency Feeding Program ("Program"), to pay meal providers to deliver up to three meals per day to older adults and other high-risk individuals during the Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") epidemic. The Program is currently authorized through May 10, 2020 and is funded by FEMA and the State with a 6 percent local match.

WDACS plans to begin this initiative through a partnership with the Hospitality Industry Training and Education Fund dba Hospitality Training Academy ("HTA"). Therefore, WDACS is seeking delegated authority to enter into a sole source agreement with HTA to establish this partnership. Should this Program be extended beyond May 10, 2020, WDACS will expand implementation to include restaurants throughout the County (excluding the City of Los Angeles, which is implementing its own program). Accordingly,

WDACS is requesting delegated authority to enter into agreements with qualified restaurants, caterers and transportation providers as needed to allow for future Program expansion.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Authorize WDACS, in coordination with CEO's Office of Emergency Management, to implement the Program to pay local restaurants and/or labor-management partnerships to deliver up to three meals per day to older adults and other high-risk individuals during the COVID-19 epidemic.
2. Approve and authorize the Acting Director of WDACS, or his designee, to enter into new agreements with restaurants, other food service providers, labor-management partnerships, transportation providers or other services necessary for the provision of meals through the Program.
3. Approve and authorize WDACS' Acting Director, or designee to execute a sole source agreement with HTA for up to \$5 million to begin implementation of the Program.
4. Approve and authorize WDACS' Acting Director, or designee to execute additional sole source or other agreements with HTA, restaurants, and other food service providers to continue meal services and workforce development services should the Program be terminated by the State on May 10, 2020 or other emergent meal needs arise.
5. Authorize the Acting Director of WDACS, or his designee, to streamline the County's Standard Terms and Conditions ("Contract") specifically for the meal services to be provided by restaurants and labor-management organizations; WDACS will obtain County Counsel approval as to form prior to execution of any such Contracts.
6. Authorize the Acting Director of WDACS, or his designee, to apply for and accept grant funding from the State or federal government to implement the Program and other meal services to expedite the County's response to the COVID-19 emergency.
7. Approve and authorize WDACS' Acting Director, or designee to execute amendments with subrecipients resulting from delegated authority approved in this Board Letter as follows: 1) add new, relevant or updated federal, state and/or county subaward terms; 2) to increase the Maximum Contract Sum in excess of 10% based on the availability of funding, and or based on subrecipient's performance provided that: a) the total allocation does not exceed available funding and b) WDACS obtains County Counsel approval as to form of the amendment prior to any such amendments.

8. Authorize WDACS' Acting Director, or his designee, to terminate and/or suspend all agreements granted under delegated authority approved by this Board Letter.
9. Direct the Acting Director of WDACS, or his designee, to notify the CEO within ten (10) business days of all actions taken using delegated authority approved by this Board Letter.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Governor's March 19th Order required the closure of non-essential businesses in industries such as the hospitality, entertainment, and food service. The impact on the hospitality and the restaurant industry has been particularly acute. Prior to the COVID-19 epidemic, there were 21,767 food service businesses in the County employing 409,346 individuals. These businesses are now at risk of closure and their employees have lost or are at risk of losing their jobs. For reference, in the hospitality/food services and retail sectors alone, if everyone were to lose their job, it would put the County at a 23% unemployment rate, or 1.1 million unemployed residents.

In addition, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, WDACS also closed Congregate meal sites throughout the County to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to older adults who are most vulnerable to the virus. There are more than 1.4 million individuals over the age of 65 in the County, of which more than 20 percent live alone and 130,000 are food insecure. As County residents (especially older adults and those with underlying conditions) were instructed to remain at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it resulted in significant increased demand from older adults seeking home-delivered meals. The County immediately provided home-delivered meals for their well-being and safety; however, there continues to be increasing demand each week. With the Governor's announcement regarding the availability of restaurant meals for older adults, the calls to 211 have significantly increased.

The State of California's Emergency Feeding Program, launched on April 24, 2020, provides the opportunity for the County to deliver humanitarian aid while stimulating the local economy. It is imperative for the County to expeditiously implement the Emergency Feeding Program to protect our businesses and worker jobs, while meeting the nutritional needs of older adults. The initiative targets participants who are age 65 and older, or otherwise high-risk (i.e. individuals with an underlying condition and those who have contracted or been exposed to COVID-19), who live alone or with one other program-eligible adult, and who earn less than 600% of the federal poverty limit. Eligible restaurants must be able to provide meals that adhere to nutritional guidelines, that meet cultural needs and include ingredients that are local sourced. Restaurants must not be currently participating in a State or federal meal service program and in addition to traditional restaurants, can include community restaurant projects and labor-management partnerships.

WDACS' first partnership under the Program will be with Unite Here Local 11, the hospitality union representing over 30,000 workers throughout Southern California.

WDACS will work with the union to retrain and re-employ their workforce through the Hospitality Training Academy (HTA). HTA is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and Taft-Hartley/labor-management partnership between Unite Here Local 11 and its contributing employers.

Should the Program be extended by the State beyond May 10, 2020, WDACS will expand partnerships to include restaurants across the County. WDACS is working with local trade associations and industry partners to develop a program model that will meet the needs of restaurants throughout the County, including small, locally owned restaurants, while aiming to provide consumer choice and variety. Should the Program be extended, WDACS will launch a formal application process for restaurants who can commit to delivering meals safely. WDACS will strive to ensure equitable apportionment of opportunity to ensure that our community serving restaurants can stay in business, retain revenue, and keep their workers employed.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended action supports Countywide Strategic Plan Goal 1: Make Investments that Transform Lives by supporting job readiness and increasing employment opportunities; and Strategic Plan Goals 2: Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities by aligning workforce development programs to provide career pathways for high-needs, priority populations and to support the labor needs of the County's high-growth industry sectors.

The recommended actions also support the following Countywide Strategic Plan Strategies: Strategy I.1 (Increase Our Focus on Prevention Initiatives) by promoting self-sufficiency and independence among older adults; Strategy I.2 (Enhance Our Delivery of Comprehensive Interventions) by ensuring the delivery of a broad-range of community-based services for older adults; and Strategy II.2 (Support the Wellness of Our Communities) by increasing services and promoting the well-being of older adults.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

For the contract with HTA, WDACS has set aside \$300,000 (6 percent match) in County General Funds in order to receive up to \$950,000 from the State and \$3,750,000 from for a total anticipated amount of up to \$5 million. The local match of \$300,000 is included in the Department's FY 19-20 adopted budget and is for meal services. The additional funds from FEMA and the State are contingent on how much the County can spend under the HTA contract by May 10, 2020, or on a time extension of the Program. If the Program is extended, WDACS will identify additional funds to provide a local match to allow for a countywide expansion of this program to restaurants, labor-management partnerships and transportation providers. This could include engaging cities across the County regarding their ability to provide contributions to expand the Program.

Workforce data on the County's restaurants will be used to survey interested and eligible restaurants and develop an equitable and efficient process to select restaurants that can

prepare nutritious meals. Funds will be used to purchase prepared meals for the older adults and the cost of delivery to a central location or individual homes throughout the County and any administrative required tasks. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (“CFDA”) information for our federally funded programs that could be used for agreements arising out of delegated authority granted in this Board Letter are:

- WIOA Adult funds (including Veterans): 17.258; Federal grantor is Department of Labor (DOL)
- WIOA Dislocated Worker funds: 17.278; Federal grantor is DOL
- WIOA 25% Rapid Response and National Dislocated Worker Grant funds: 17.278; Federal grantor is DOL
- Expanding CalFresh funds: 10.561; Federal Grantor is Department of Agriculture
- 93.043 Special Programs for the Aging-Title III, Part D, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services: 93.043; Federal grantor is HHS
- Special Programs for the Aging, Title III, Part C, Nutrition Services: 93.045; Federal grantor is HHS
- Nutrition Services Incentive Program: 93.053; Federal grantor is HHS

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under the current declaration of a national, state and local emergency, Title II CFR Section 200.320(f)(2) applies to our current health and economic crisis due to COVID-19. FEMA allows the use of its funds for noncompetitive awards in an exigency such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. It is in the best interest of the County to approve the sole source contract with HTA and delegated authority to contract with selected restaurants, labor-management partnerships, and transportation providers in order to quickly respond to the need for meals among older adults and other vulnerable populations affected by this pandemic.

Given this ever-evolving national emergency, WDACS’ capacity to serve its most vulnerable clients will be enhanced by temporarily increasing its delegated authority to include, but not be limited to, award new contracts; extend, amend, or add funds to existing contracts in order to meet emergency needs such as contracts with food service providers, restaurants, and transportation providers to serve meals to home bound older adults; apply and accept emergency (i.e., FEMA) funding as it becomes available; put in place solutions to emergent workforce and employment developments; and add funding to current contractors as needed beyond what was earlier approved by this Board.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

As stated above, WDACS is utilizing the exigency provision allowed under Title II CFR Section 200.320(f)(2) and FEMA as it applies to our current public health and economic crisis due to COVID-19 to proceed with a sole source procurement. HTA provides the only hospitality/food service training program in California that focuses on union

employment, providing participants with an opportunity to secure career pathways with good wages and benefits. Upon receiving the recommended delegated authority, WDACS will execute the sole source agreement with HTA to begin to implement the Program identified herein.

WDACS will continue to follow all State and federal guidelines of the requisite workforce and aging programs' funding sources for all procurements and any subsequent subawards. Once the COVID-19 emergency order is lifted, WDACS will resume the standard processes of requesting Board authority to amend and enter into new subawards for contracted programs. WDACS will notify the CEO within ten (10) business days of any action taken in relation to this delegated authority.

MONITORING REQUIREMENT

Administrative, programmatic and fiscal monitoring of all Workforce and Aging Programs and program subrecipients will be conducted on an annual basis to ensure subaward compliance. Administrative, program and fiscal monitoring will be conducted by the County Department of Auditor-Controller ("A-C"), a vendor provided by the A-C, WDACS monitoring staff or other qualified entity.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Approval of the recommended actions will enhance our current capacity to deliver and adapt services to meet emergency and evolving needs as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, including increasing home delivered meals to older adults, and providing employment and training to displaced workers.

CONCLUSION

Should you have questions, please contact me directly, or your staff may contact Mr. Kevin Anderson, Special Assistant, at (213) 738-2593 or kanderson@wdacs.lacounty.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

OTTO SOLÓRZANO
Acting Director

OS:PG:CD:MY:JD