

Issue Title: Joint Office of Homeless Services - Restoration of 1% General Fund Reduction to Meet Current Service Level - \$252,000

Commissioner(s) Issuing Direction: Mayor Wheeler

Bureau(s) Directed: Joint Office of Homeless Services (through the Portland Housing Bureau)

Issue Overview and Desired Goal/Outcome(s): Over the past three years, the City and County, through the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS), have served record numbers of individuals and households with emergency shelter, permanent housing placement, and support services. Nonetheless, the continuing crisis in the housing market, combined with insufficient benefits and access to mental health, addiction, and reentry services, among others, continue to push record numbers of highly vulnerable people into homelessness, leaving thousands of people on waitlists for shelter and housing assistance.

As part of FY 2019-20 budget development, the JOHS is directed to request the 1% or \$252,000 of Ongoing General Fund Constraint to ensure that JOHS is able to continue the Current Level of services funded in FY 2019.

Funding Options: Ongoing General Fund

Additional Requests/Notes: Please identify the scalable service trade-offs if there are not sufficient ongoing General Fund resources available.

Issue Title: Joint Office of Homeless Services - JOHS Staff Capacity

Commissioner(s) Issuing Direction: Mayor Wheeler

Bureau(s) Directed: Joint Office of Homeless Services (through the Portland Housing Bureau)

Issue Overview and Desired Goal/Outcome(s): The JOHS has maximized their staffing capacity and does not have the ability to expand or add new staff to respond to requests for increased data, communications or to continue the important working regarding alternative shelters and villages. As part of the FY 2019-20 budget JOHS is directed to prepare a request for the following positions:

- **Data Capacity: 0.50 FTE (approx. \$55,000)** - this position will support the additional workload created by the expanded homeless services system. Quality data analysis and reporting is essential to the effective use of JOHS resources. JOHS is seeking to sustain this capacity while we work with PHB and the Department of County Human Services to conduct a thorough review of how JOHS/homeless system data needs are met across the City and County. An equivalent amount of funding for this position will be requested from Multnomah County (0.50FTE/\$55,000).
- **Communications Specialist: 0.50 FTE (approx. \$62,500)** - this position will be assigned to work with the Mayor's and Chair's communications teams to meet the critical need to deepen the public's understanding of the work carried out by the JOHS and to cultivate opportunities to contribute to the solutions to homelessness. The position will develop and implement a pro-active communications strategy, using multiple media formats, and directly engage in community forums, neighborhood meetings, and other public gatherings to share information and build community partnerships. An equivalent amount of funding for this position will be requested from Multnomah County (0.50FTE/\$62,500)
- **Alternative Shelter Specialist 0.50 FTE (approx. \$50,000)** - in FY 2018-19 this position was funded through the Office of Civic Life and Engagement. The Alternative Shelter Program will bring enhanced services and supports to existing alternative shelters such as the 20 bed at Kenton Women's Village, allow for relocating existing alternative shelters to new locations, and support the creation of additional alternative shelter options.

Funding Options: Funding for the Data Capacity and Communications Specialist will be a shared ask between the City and the County of ongoing General Fund. Funding for the Alternative Shelter is requested from ongoing City General Fund.

Additional Requests/Notes: None

Issue Title: Joint Office of Homeless Services - Operational Support for Enhanced Adult Emergency Shelter

Commissioner(s) Issuing Direction: Mayor Wheeler

Bureau(s) Directed: Joint Office of Homeless Services (through the Portland Housing Bureau)

Issue Overview and Desired Goal/Outcome(s): A Home for Everyone has prioritized the expansion of emergency shelter for all populations, and the largest unmet need continues to be for adult households without children. The basic safety of people experiencing homelessness requires funding for a full range of emergency night and day shelter services, including shelter for specific populations and associated emergency services expenses.

In the last Point-in-Time Homeless Count (2017), nearly 1,700 people were counted sleeping outside on the streets or other public spaces - 40% of those counted. While there was an increase in the number of people staying in year-round emergency shelters from the previous year, there remain long waiting lists for existing shelters.

Two new, high quality purpose-built 24/7 shelters are scheduled to open in 2019, substantially improving the quality of programming offered to adult shelter participants in our community. One of these shelters will be in SE Portland, focused on women and couples, with priorities for women, people with disabilities and veterans. The other shelter will be a downtown, referral-based program that focuses on chronically homeless adults who were previously living in encampments.

The significant majority of operating funds for these shelters will come from reallocating funding from two temporary adult shelters. However, the temporary shelters offer 20 fewer beds, and 75 of those beds are night-time only. The added beds, added hours, and enhanced programming at the two new shelters will require additional operations funding. The JOHS is directed to develop a budget request that would provide half the additional funding required by the two new shelters, with the understanding that the other half of the funding will be requested from Multnomah County.

Funding Options: This is shared ask for ongoing General Fund between the City and County. Each jurisdiction would contribute \$250,000 for a total of \$500,000.

Additional Requests/Notes: None