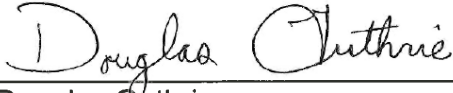


Request to apply as a partner and fiscal agent with the Watts Gang Taskforce to the California Board of State and Community Corrections for Category 2 of the California Violence Intervention & Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program to implement the One Watts Initiative for \$500,000 a year over a three-year period matched by \$1.5 million in leveraged resources



Douglas Guthrie
President and CEO



Jenny Scanlin
Chief Strategic Development Officer

Purpose: The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (the "Authority") will serve as principal partner and fiscal agent in the One Watts Initiative (1WI) grant application which will be submitted by the Watts Gang Taskforce to the Board of State and Community Corrections for \$1.5 million matched by an additional \$1.5 million in foundation funding and in-kind services to improve public health and safety through effective violence reduction. The primary focus of the One Watts Initiative is to utilize evidence-based strategies such as employment and training combined with case management and street outreach to promote a reduction in violence across Watts.

Regarding: This represents the initial action of the Board of Commissioners on this specific item. The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles has a long history of supporting violence prevention programs through its initiation of the Community Safety Partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department, its financial and administrative support for Project Fatherhood and Motivated Mothers, its support of safe passage programs in Watts, and its long-time institutional partnership with Watts Gang Taskforce.

Issues: The Part 1 violent crime rate in the Southeast Area, which encompasses the Watts neighborhood, is more than twice that of the city as a whole and has increased every year for the past 3 years. However, those rates are not increasing as much as they had in the past and in a more historical perspective, crime is down from where it was a decade ago. This historical perspective is important and reflected in the consciousness of the community, who when surveyed said they felt very safe or somewhat safe during the day and at night inside their homes. But they still do not feel safe outside of their homes at night (with only 27% feeling very safe or somewhat safe). To address public safety needs and reduce Part 1 violent crimes and gang and illegal drug activity, the Mayor's office of Gang Reduction and Youth Violence (GRYD), Watts Gang Task Force, Community Safety Partnership, service providers and residents will expand the ongoing crime and safety efforts and leverage existing partnerships through this CalVIP application.

This application is intended to complement the funding already received by the City of Los Angeles by the Board of State and Community Corrections for the Gang Reduction Youth Diversion (GRYD) program. In Watts, GRYD funds focus on (1) *community engagement*, (2) *gang prevention* activities directed at youth, (3) *gang intervention* with a family case management and juvenile reentry focus points, and (4) *violence interruption* as evidence-based models that strengthen community resiliency to gangs and gang violence. Many organizations in Watts play a role in these programs and are connected through entities like Watts Gang Taskforce and the Watts Regional School

Safety Collaborative.

The Watts Gang Taskforce sees the CalVIP grant as an opportunity to enhance these efforts by pairing them with an *intensive jobs and employment* program that will work with youth and adults that have been identified and referred by interventionists employed by Watts Gang Taskforce under the grant as well as other designated street outreach workers and case managers to the Watts/Los Angeles WorkSource Center for training, guidance and a wide range of services. The goal of the program is to provide real grounded alternatives and the opportunity for financial stability and traditional modes of success. The Watts/Los Angeles WorkSource Center will provide a range of job training and placement in high-demand sectors such as healthcare and construction. The program, as developed currently, anticipates providing intensive services to at least fifty men and women per year and 150 for the life of the grant. One Watts Initiative is patterned after the highly successful Los Angeles Reconnections Academy (LARCA) 2.0 Program which has been providing entrepreneurial and career training and placements in Watts. However, the benefits of LARCA are not available universally as the program is directed only to prior or existing gang members who were signatories of a legal settlement agreement with the City of Los Angeles. The CalVIP funds would allow similar benefits to be greatly expanded to other eligible men and women in the Watts community. The One Watts Program grant will be administered by the Watts Gang Taskforce with assistance from Children's Institute and will be evaluated by Professor Jorge Leap, who is associated with the University of California Los Angeles. HACLA, as fiscal agent, will oversee all invoicing, accounting and financial audits.

If successful in receiving the grant funds, the One Watts Initiative is a three-year grant, running from October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. HACLA will bring its successes in grant administration and financial oversight to assist in capacity building for this grant and will receive a percentage of the grant funds to cover these administrative costs. Additionally, it is anticipated that the majority of the grant will go to the Watts/Los Angeles WorkSource Center, who will hire one full-time position to complement the already existing job development and case management resources the Center and its partners can provide. Funds from the grant will be flexibly provided to clients to utilize on a wide range of resources, training and services – creating an extremely personalized approach to developing pathways to success.

Vision Plan: PEOPLE Strategy #7: Enhance resident access to education opportunities, workforce readiness training, and skills development

CalVIP will allow HACLA to provide community-wide assistance to reduce violence, provide for financial success and family reunification. Although the program is not intended to exclusively serve residents of public housing or Section 8, many of the clients have ties to our housing communities and their individual success will have a ripple effect on families in our housing. Additionally, this program will help reduce violence in the Watts area, where HACLA manages four large public housing sites.

PEOPLE Strategy #15: Improve security monitoring at all HACLA sites

One of the consistent concerns expressed by residents is the need for enhanced security. The CalVIP program will provide employment and entrepreneurial alternatives for clients who would otherwise potentially participate or continue to participate in activities that perpetuate violence in the community. This program will reduce the need for HACLA and LAPD to manage security issues, reduce stressors on the community and improve public health.

Funding:

Source of Funds: Funding is provided by the State of California. All leverage programs offered by HACLA to complement the CalVIP services are funded through non-federal dollars and allocated through contracts for services with non-profit partners or government agencies.

Budget and Program Impact: Receipt of funding from CalVIP should not impact HACLA's Operating budget. It is anticipated that the grant and its leverage resources will cover HACLA's general administration of the program. In the absence of these funds, the programs and activities would otherwise not be provided.

Environmental Review: Not applicable

Section 3: Not applicable

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Request to apply as a partner and fiscal agent with the Watts Gang Taskforce to the California Board of State and Community Corrections for Category 2 of the California Violence Intervention & Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program to implement the One Watts Initiative for \$500,000 a year over a three-year period matched by \$1.5 million in leveraged resources

WHEREAS, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Department reissued its California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Request for Proposals (RFP) on April 9, 2020 with a submission deadline of June 5, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) is prepared to offer job training and placement to individuals identified as having the highest risk of perpetuating or being victimized by violence in Watts through its Watts/Los Angeles WorkSource Center as a component program under the CalVIP application and act as fiscal agent for the grant; and

WHEREAS, these services will complement the work of a variety of organizations providing intervention, community engagement, and case management in Watts through the GYRD Program run by the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the Watts Gang Taskforce is the lead program partner and will ensure that all grant activities are conducted in accordance with the grantor requirements, coordinated with the program evaluator and provide direct intervention and referral services which will complement the activities led by HACLA; and

WHEREAS, the Watts Gang Taskforce is submitting the grant application as an eligible Community Based Organization applicant required by the RFP for a total request of up to \$1.5 million, which is the maximum amount that BSCC will grant; and

WHEREAS, the Watts Gang Taskforce expects to raise a cash match from foundations to support this effort but may need additional leverage resources; and

WHEREAS, HACLA is already deeply committed to funding violence prevention and intervention programs and will utilize its existing contracts as additional leverage for the \$1.5 million grant request.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the President and CEO, or designee, to execute all necessary documents and certifications required; enter into partnership agreements as necessary with Watts Gang Taskforce and various organizations engaged to assist with implementing the One Watts Initiative grant; authorize HACLA to act as fiscal agent for the One Watts Initiative and build its team and program within the Workforce Development Unit to address this unique opportunity to provide intensive training and services; and provide a leverage letter as necessary utilizing existing contracts and staff time as in-kind service for the \$1.5 million CalVIP grant application to serve the greater Watts community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

By: _____
Chairperson

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BY: _____
General Counsel

DATE ADOPTED: _____