

Social Services Commission Special Meeting Agenda Announcement

On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-25-20, which allows Brown Act Body members to attend meetings telephonically. Please be advised that some, or all, Whittier Social Services Commissioners may attend this meeting telephonically.

Consistent with mandates of Executive Order No. N-29-20, a physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting or offer public comment will not be made available. City Hall will not be open to the public for this meeting; however public comments can be submitted below as instructed.

To submit Public Comments/Questions:

- Email: arodriguez@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

To view live meetings remotely:

- Video and audio: <https://zoom.us/j/96391049442>
- Audio only: Dial (669) 900-9128 (Meeting ID: 963 9104 9442)

Please submit email comments by 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Social Service Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails received after 5:30 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
MAY 18, 2021, 6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Marisol Enriquez-Santos
Commissioner Jose Luevano
Commissioner Kathleen McDonnell
Vice Chair Loletta Barrett
Chair Carlos Illingworth

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address the Social Services Commission regarding any item of business, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 public comments can be made via:

- Email: arodriguez@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

Please submit email and voicemail public comments by 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails and voicemails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails and voicemails received after 5:30 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any communications which do not appear on the printed agenda.

5. STAFF REPORTS

SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING GRANT

Recommendation: The Social Services Commission recommends the City Council approve the FY 2020-21 allocation of Social Services Funding in the amount of \$176,516 with an added \$100,000 one time addition to the funding program to total \$276,516.

6. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

7. ADJOURNMENT

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The agenda packet is available three days before the meeting in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at City Hall (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) and the East Whittier Branch Library (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Additionally, the agenda packet can be viewed on the City's website. Materials distributed to the Commission within 72 hours of the Social Services Commission meeting are available for public inspection in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Office.

Los servicios relacionados con la discapacidad están disponibles para permitir que las personas con discapacidad participen en esta reunión, de conformidad con la Ley Federal de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990. También hay intérpretes en español disponibles. Para obtener información o para solicitar servicios, comuníquese con el Departamento de recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad de la reunión al (562) 567-9400.

El paquete de la agenda está disponible tres días antes de la reunión el Departamento Parques Recreación y Servicio a la Comunidad en el Ayuntamiento (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) y Biblioteca sucursal del este de Whittier (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Además, el paquete de la agenda se puede ver en el sitio web de la Ciudad. Los materiales distribuidos al Concejo Municipal dentro de las 72 horas de la reunión del Comisión de Servicios Sociales están disponibles para inspección pública en el Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Regular and Adjourned Regular meeting agendas may be amended up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Dated this 17th day of May 2021.

/s/ Alex Rodriguez

Alex Rodriguez, Office Specialist III



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: May 18, 2021

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Social Services Funding Grant

RECOMMENDATION

The Social Services Commission recommends the City Council approve the FY 2020-21 allocation of Social Services Funding in the amount of \$176,516 with an added \$100,000 onetime addition to the funding program to total \$276,516.

BACKGROUND

The City has provided support to local nonprofit agencies providing resources to the Whittier community through the annual Social Services funding process. The adopted FY 2020-21 budget includes \$176,516 from the General Fund to financially support local social service projects. The Social Services Commission annually reviews applications to provide input to City Council for the distribution of these funds. Application information is made available through press releases and mailings to interested agencies. This year, the Commission's focus was resources for persons experiencing homeless, including agencies providing housing, proposed coordination with the new Navigation Center, and the needs of families.

DISCUSSION

This year, fifteen funding applications were received, and the Social Services Commission reviewed these applications at their April 6, 2021 meeting. As in previous years, the financial need for funding exceeded the available funding. It was noted that this past year agencies have shown their resilience and are having to work harder to find resources from other foundations, cities, donors, and virtual fund-raising efforts, as Public Health Orders have prevented most traditional fundraising events and activities from taking place.

Each application was evaluated (Attachment A) using the following criteria to obtain a ranking from one to fifteen, with one being the highest:

- Each question must be answered completely and clearly state the program's goals.
- The number of city residents benefiting/participating in proposed program activities is taken into consideration.
- A specific program outline is required, indicating how the program operates.
- A specific program budget is required, detailing how City funds will be utilized.

Agenda Item No. 5.A.

- The entire agency budget or financial statement is required.
- Applicants must show how the program benefits the Whittier community.
- Applicants must show how City funds are maximized by leveraging other community agency partnerships and/or resources.
- Applicants must collaborate with other organizations that serve the homeless community, families at risk, families that are food insecure, and families needing child support.

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Commissioner Enriquez-Santos and Carried 5-0, with Commissioner McDonnell recusing on the Boys and Girls Club proposal, to recommend the distribution of FY 2020-21 Social Services Funds and submit the proposed allocations to the City Council for consideration.

At its May 11, 2021 meeting, City Council allocated a onetime \$100,000 addition to the grant funds, bringing the total funding amount to \$276,516. City Council also asked that the Services Commission re-allocate 75% of the total funding to agencies that met the criteria focus and 25% to other applicants that serve the Whittier Community. The Council also wanted to express their appreciation to the Commission for the work and time they put into assisting our local agencies and their willingness to see this process through.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 3: Maintain & Enhance Quality of Life

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Funding Recommendations
- B. Project Summaries

| AGENCY NAME | Total Project Cost per Agency | 2020-21 Request by Agency | Funding Recommended by Social Services Commission | RANK Highest Score =1 |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Salvation Army - Transitional Living Center | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | \$21,000 | 1 |
| L.A. CADA | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | \$11,800 | 2 |
| Whittier Area First Day Coalition | \$153,439 | \$25,000 | \$24,000 | 3 |
| Jovenes, Inc. | \$7,786 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | 4 |
| Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter | \$366,744 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | 5 |
| The Whole Child - Mental Health & Housing Services | \$19,818,442 | \$50,000 | \$42,700 | 6 |
| Interfaith Food Center | \$670,171 | \$16,000 | \$16,000 | 7 |
| Volunteers of America | \$141,805 | \$80,000 | \$23,000 | 8 |
| SPIRITT Family Services | \$119,600 | \$20,000 | \$4,000 | 9* |
| Whittier Meals on Wheels | \$4,500 | \$4,500 | \$4,100 | 9* |
| Boys & Girls Club | \$279,018 | \$20,000 | \$10,750 | 11 |
| Community Legal Aid SoCal | \$38,798 | \$15,000 | \$4,166 | 12 |
| Whittier Hearing Angel Foundation | \$14,250 | \$10,000 | \$0 | 13 |
| CAPC, Inc. | \$25,000 | \$7,500 | \$0 | 14 |
| Whittier Pregnancy Clinic, dba Obria Medical Clinics | \$21,237 | \$10,000 | \$0 | 15 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT ALLOCATED | | | \$176,516 | |

**CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES GRANT APPLICANTS
2020-21**

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Boys & Girls Club of Whittier enables all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. The Elevator Project request is for ADA Access to Club's 2nd Floor. The project will provide access to the program rooms for wheelchairs, strollers, delivery carts, and any persons with limited mobility to have access to the second floor. An elevator will enable the building and the organization to fulfill its mission of helping all young people especially those who need the organization the most, to become the best that they can be.

C.A.P.C., Inc. empowers individuals with disabilities to maximize the quality of their lives in their home communities. The Bridging the Digital Divide project will serve many individuals that have limited access to internet and technology. The grant will provide individuals with an additional 800 hours of internet access per month. CAPC will also be able to host multiple group trainings with the CAPC families, on use of technology devices and signing up for low income internet assistance for the future. In order to create long term impact, CAPC needs to be equipped with both accessible and sustainable technology and solutions.

Community Legal Aid of Los Angeles (CLA SoCal) helps the community fight injustice by providing compassionate, high-quality legal aid, and by advocating for strong communities. The Whittier Community Legal Services Project will provide free civil legal assistance to residents of the City of Whittier. Domestic violence, consumer debt, access to public benefits, eviction: all of these problems intersect with the civil justice system, and all are factors that can quickly change the trajectory of a family's life. Without legal counsel, those grappling with these problems through the courts or administrative agencies can easily make mistakes that cause immediate negative ramifications. These errors can also cause long-term damage such as judgments, which can interfere with a family's ability to find new housing for years to come after an eviction.

Interfaith Food Center provides food assistance through three programs: The Supplemental Grocery Program which distributes weekly food assistance to housed families. Clients register and receive approximately 125 pounds of food weekly through our drive-through services. The Homeless Food Bag program provides the homeless with approximately 20 pounds of ready to eat food daily. The Mobile Nutrition Pantry for Seniors delivers 20+ pound boxes of food to seniors at low-income housing facilities in the area once a month. IFC numbers have dramatically increased due to the pandemic, with no end in sight. The makeup of IFC's clients reflects statistics for the area, with the addition of those who have recently lost jobs due to the pandemic. With the continuing unstable economy, high unemployment and the pandemic, IFC is a lifeline for its clients, ensuring that they have nutritious food on their table.

Jovenes, Inc. works deeply with youth, implementing a plan that addresses their needs for housing, healthcare, education/employment, and trauma recovery, with a mission of providing an innovative program of stable housing options, compassionate care, life skills training, and employment support for young adults seeking a path to life change. The Motel Voucher project provides temporary safe housing for homeless transition-age youth (ages 18-24) who are residents of Whittier. The Coordinated Entry System (CES) is used to find other housing options, such as emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, host homes, or self-resolution of the youth's own situation. The program works hand in hand with various department, including our Regional Coordination Department for the Coordinated Entry System and Department of Mental Health/Innovation II. The ultimate goal of this project is to utilize these short-term interventions as a tool to provide youth with the stability they need to achieve permanent housing as quickly as possible to ensure that the homeless experience will be brief. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jovenes has placed particular emphasis on the Motel Voucher Program, as motels have also begun to serve as quarantine locations for youth.

Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (L.A. CADA) works to save lives, unite families, and protect the community by providing access to non-profit, evidence-based behavioral health services that address the needs of under-served and disadvantaged populations. The L.A. CADA Substance Use Disorder Treatment for Disadvantaged Whittier Residents project would expand services to more Whittier residents who utilize our residential treatment beds and outpatient treatment slots via the addition of increased staff outreach hours in Whittier. The funding would provide us with the means to conduct education, outreach, and service coordination directly to Whittier schools, police, neighborhoods, agencies that can refer homeless, substance-using, and/or persons with mental health issues to L.A. CADA services for treatment. Whittier is one of L.A. CADA's primary service areas and the statistics show that substance use and abuse presents a serious and ongoing threat to the Whittier community. The project goal is to deliver behavioral healthcare to Whittier residents who need it.

Meals on Wheels, Inc. makes available healthy meals to homebound persons. The Meals on Wheels project delivers meals Monday through Friday, with the help of volunteers. People who are housebound, live alone, recovering from surgery or handicapped and cannot obtain food on their own, qualify for this program. The meals are prepared under the direction of a dietician at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital. An additional valuable benefit of our service is the short visit by volunteers with the clients. In some instances, volunteers are the only people the clients see during the day. They help celebrate birthdays with cards and sometimes small donated gifts. Occasionally, it has been necessary to call paramedics or relative to take care of problem. Also, many of the volunteers have run errands for clients, who otherwise could not have them done.

Salvation Army Transitional Living Center (TLC) The Child Development Center project would make required improvements to the Center located on the Salvation Army's (TLC) in Whittier. The Child Development Center provides licensed, quality childcare for the homeless single women and children residing at TLC's housing program as well as the Whittier Hospitality House, as they work, pursue educational goals, and participate in

supportive services during the day to facilitate their transition to stable, permanent housing. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Child Development Center has been closed. The project would purchase necessary sanitation equipment and supplies to comply with the new health and safety standards. This would also include replacing the existing outdoor/playground surface, which is dilapidated due to its years of use. The new, rubber surface will also expand the usable outdoor space to ensure that the Center is prepared to reopen with adequate and safe outdoor options.

SPIRITT Family Services empowers families, improves health and well-being, and strengthens communities in which every person with a serious health problem, emotional disorder and/or addictive disease will be free from abuse and will have hope. The Child and Family Development Services project will provide crisis relief to 36 families, with a specific interest in the Latino population which has been most negatively impacted by COVID in Southern California. Through hybrid services (a combination of face to face and virtual services), the goal of the program is to increase positive approaches towards learning, improve social and emotional development, strengthen family health, inform families of local resources, and modify behavior at school, work, home, or in the community. Licensed professionals and paraprofessionals will provide Whittier residents with case management, counseling (individual and group counseling), access to support groups, and referrals to an array of human and social services. SPIRITT is committed to ensuring that no Whittier parent or child is denied mental health services and never turning our back on families when they are ineligible to receive services due to barriers in the requirement process.

The Whole Child helps families raise emotionally and physical healthy children and have a place to call home. The belief is that not only does every child matter but every aspect of the child matters – the whole child. The Whole Child: Families First Program services disadvantaged children and their families. The project will ensure that Mental Health, Family Housing, Parent Enrichment and Nutrition services are readily available for families as they struggle to recover from the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis. The services include the provision of therapy for children and support for parents, financial assistance for families at-risk of homelessness, prevention and early-intervention services for children at-risk of abuse/neglect, and nutrition services to help families experiencing food insecurity. The Whole Child will strengthen services for low-income families who have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and the vulnerable populations they serve.

Volunteers of America of Los Angeles (VOALA) helps all people realize their full potential through relevant programs and services that have an impact that is: deep, resulting in a change in the way they see themselves extending beyond individuals to their families and communities. The Whittier Rapid Re-Housing project will provide services for at least 30 individuals or family household who are experiencing homelessness and who reside in the City of Whittier. The funding will be utilized as direct financial assistance to cover rental costs, utility costs, move-in expenses, security deposits, hotel/motel vouchers, facilitating housing placement and long-term stability for the people served by the program. VOALA will make the Rapid-Re-Housing resources

available to support housing placement and stability for eligible participants referred by other local service agencies, including through the City's Homeless Navigation Center operated by the Salvation Army. VOALA staff will provide leveraged Housing Navigation support, including housing search and location, visits to prospective housing options, landlord negotiation, reviewing lease agreements, and ensuring that all housing options are habitable and rent reasonable. Staff will also proceed to provide in-home case management including the creating of a personal budget, fostering an understanding of the necessity of managing resources in order to maintain stability.

Whittier Area First Day Coalition helps the homeless and at-risk individuals and families in the Greater Whittier area to transition toward self-sufficiency. The Prevention and Supportive Services Center project provides initial assessment and orientation to the homeless services systems for adults, youth families currently or at-risk of experiencing homelessness. The center provides access to basic items including hygiene kits, clothing and referrals for available housing as well as, assisting in securing emergency, interim and permanent housing. Services also include preventative measures such as funds for California identification cards, faxes and a secure place to receive mail. The team also provides linkages to partners such as The Salvation Army, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Public Health and L.A. CADA for mental health, health and substance use recovery services.

Women and Children's Crisis Shelter provides safety, shelter and hope to victims of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Outreach Supportive Services project assists walk-in victims of domestic violence with supportive services. Services include safety planning, case management and helps clients attain self-sufficiency. The project provides legal, medical, housing and financial advocacies, resource and referrals, crisis intervention and peer support. There is domestic violence counseling, a domestic violence support group, parenting and life-skills. All programming is free in bilingual English & Spanish. Available is a 24/7 hour hotline to victims to provide crisis counseling referrals and intake clients into shelter. The program assists homeless callers that are not experiencing domestic violence and provides on-site crisis response to Whittier Police Department and PIH hospital to assist victims.

Whittier Hearing Angel Foundation educates and serves the community regarding hearing and hearing loss. The 2 Gift of Hearing Mission Events project will fit 20-25 people with hearing aids at each event. There is no hard costs for the events if held at Whittier Hearing Center but the foundation must buy hearing aids, batteries, filters and earmolds plus cover the professional fees to test the hearing and fit the hearing aids. There is a regular flow of applicants coming from the website; doctor office referrals and community referrals. In hard economic times people cannot afford hearing aids. When we give the Gift of Hearing we not only change that person's life, but we also change the lives of everyone in their family and everyone they have contact with.

Whittier Pregnancy Care Clinic, DBA Obria Medical Clinics offers life-affirming reproductive health care and holistic-focused support services to those facing an unplanned pregnancy, pregnancy loss, or sexually transmitted infection. The Health Fair

Day Clinic projects will be offered to low-income, homeless and at-risk youth. Fairs will be hosted at local churches who are members of WAEMA (Whittie Area Evangelical Ministerial Alliance). WAEMA members will assist in promoting the Health Fairs to our target participants, with an emphasis on reaching Whittier residents. Blood Pressure and Cholesterol screenings will be offered, along with STD testing, Advanced Practitioner and Registered Nurse consultations and lab work for STD and Cholesterol testing and referrals for identified health issues. Educational booths will be available where participants may speak with a medical professional regarding general or reproductive health issues. Vouchers will be given to our target participants for a free Well-Woman exam at the Obria Whittier Clinic. Anyone may attend these Health Fairs, but low-income homeless and at-risk youth will not be charged for any services, follow-up care or necessary lab work.