

ACTION ITEM MEMO

Port of Tacoma Commission



Item No: 6C
Meeting Date: 8/20/24

DATE: August 12, 2024
TO: Port of Tacoma Commission
FROM: Eric Johnson, Executive Director
Sponsor: Alisa Praskovich, Chief, Special Projects & Commission Relations
Project Manager: Matthew Mauer, Government Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: ILA WITH CITY OF FIFE IN RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS EFFORTS

A. ACTION REQUESTED

This memo is intended to request commission action on a proposed five-year ILA with the City of Fife to address homelessness in response to Resolution 2022-19-PT which directed Port staff to develop alternatives to assist local governments in responding to an increasing number of people experiencing homelessness.

Strategic Plan Initiative: CC-2 and OS-2

B. BACKGROUND

After the passage of Resolution 2022-19-PT, staff began preliminary discussions with local municipalities to gauge what the Port can do to help with the ongoing homelessness crisis. At the time, the City of Fife came back with an option that we believe is a great fit with the goals outlined in Resolution 2022-19-PT.

As a part of Fife's ongoing efforts to alleviate persons experiencing homelessness on their streets, they initiated a "street outreach" effort to engage homeless individuals and coordinate a response to their unique needs. This outreach program is based on the framework of similar federal programs. The City has funded its outreach efforts through grants from the Department of Commerce and Pierce County. The funding from Pierce County was set to end June 30th, 2023, and they have proposed the Port could assist by paying for an additional year to continue their efforts at current levels, at a cost of \$72,000. On May 23, 2023, the Port of Tacoma Commission authorized an ILA allocating \$72,000 to the City of Fife.

Fife has seen success with their Jobs Program getting people out of their current situations and providing shelter, food, jobs, and training to help people get back on their feet. However, because of the job element, only some seeking assistance are a good fit for the Jobs Program. This is where the street outreach portion of the City of Fife's services comes in. A person in need is first identified in one of three ways through the outreach program:

- **Walk-in:** At the Fife Community Center, they have individuals visit who are looking for community resources. In this case, their Community Navigator or Case Manager will meet with the individual one-on-one (in-person or over the phone).
- **Outreach:** Through the Fife Police Department or the Community Navigator or Case Manager working in the community.
- **Referral:** When a community member or organization comes upon an individual/household.

All three methods involve assessing individual needs based on conversations and questions regarding housing, food, and income status. The Fife team will connect them with the appropriate resource based on responses to these inquiries. Some of these resources may be in-house, such as a care package or assisting them in getting an ID or social security card. They may refer them to a community partner for services that the City does not offer. This process would involve making an appointment or sharing a person's name within the community organization. According to Fife, it is their goal to create personal connections. If appropriate, they arrange transportation to the appointment by offering a bus ticket or other transport. Referrals are only part of getting the support; they attempt follow-up either in-person or over the phone to ensure they can get the help they need, see if they need further support, and let them know that we care about them.

In 2022 they assisted and connected 122 individuals with additional resources, permanent housing, and access to help as a direct result of the street outreach program. In 2023, with the help of our funding, that number increased to 309 individuals with 18 people permanently housed, 125 provided clothes, 226 with hygiene kits and 155 provided transportation for medical appointments and treatment.

C. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work will include entering into an ILA to formalize the partnership to support their street outreach program.

- Five years of funding - \$100,000 per year.

D. TIMEFRAME/PROJECT SCHEDULE

POT ILA Approval	August 2024
Fife ILA Approval	Sep/Oct 2024
Execution if ILA	Sep/Oct 2024
Funding Allocations	Q4 2024*
	*Repeating annually for five years

E. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Cost: \$500,000 total. \$100,000 per year over five years.

Source of Funds: Funds will be sourced from the operating budget each year for five years. Funds will come from operation income and will not be sourced from tax levy dollars.

F. ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

- Reduce level of funding or length of funding.

- This option would still help the City of Fife; however, it would be less impactful and provide less of an opportunity to tell the story of Port assistance in this matter.
- Options could include reducing to \$50,000 per year for five years, or funding \$100,000 per year for say three years.
- Do not renew ILA and cease funding of this effort.
 - Potential increase in issues associated with homelessness.
 - No answer for the perennial question of “what is the Port doing the help with the homelessness crisis”.

G. PROPOSED YEARLY BUDGET

BUDGET		
CATEGORY	IDEAL BUDGET	NARRATIVE (HOW funds will be used)
Program Operations		
Costs Associated with Payroll		
Case Management - Street Outreach	\$ 35,000.00	Case Manager 33% of salary & benefits
Supportive Service Costs		
Housing Search & Placement	\$ 37,000.00	1st & Last month rent, security deposits, move-in costs
Services to Special Populations	\$ 20,000.00	Purchase of food, clothing, and hygiene supplies
Transportation	\$ 6,000.00	Uber/Lyft, Bus Passes, gas
Other Program Costs		
Office Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	Employee office supplies
Staff Training / Conference / Per Diem	\$ 1,000.00	Staff training
Program Operations Subtotal	\$ 100,000.00	

H. NEXT STEPS

- If approved, send to Fife for approval
- Execute ILA