

STAFF REPORT

Lancaster Redevelopment Agency

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5/22/07
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Date: May 22, 2007

To: Chairman Hearn and Agency Directors

From: Elizabeth Brubaker, Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Director

Subject: **Award of a Professional Services Agreement between the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency and RBF Consulting to provide a complete Citywide specific Homeless Needs Assessment**

Recommendation:

Authorize the award of a Professional Services Agreement between the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency and RBF Consulting to provide a complete Citywide Homeless Needs Assessment.

Financial Impact:

Funding of the Homeless Needs Assessment will come from the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency's Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Fund. Appropriations for the Homeless Needs Assessment will be presented for adoption with the proposed fiscal year 2007/08 budget.

Background:

Despite greater attention to the problem, the diversity of the homeless population continues to increase. Although studies, data, and reports are available that attempt to document the homeless situation in Los Angeles County, Lancaster has many unique characteristics that are not adequately represented in these larger studies, and even though the City of Lancaster leverages resources through partnerships with outside agencies, gaps still remain.

The Agency prepared a Housing Needs Assessment that identified areas in need of housing and other revitalization services. As a result of the Housing Needs Assessment, it became apparent that a deeper understanding of homelessness in our community was needed, such as whom the homeless are, where they are coming from, where they are concentrated, and how the problems can best be addressed.

RBF Consulting has submitted a proposal that will assist with this important effort. RBF's proposal includes coordination with the Homeless Service Providers who are currently providing services and working with the homeless population in the City of Lancaster, and conducting short interviews with members of the homeless and at-risk for homelessness population. RBF Consulting will prepare a thorough and complete assessment of the homeless situation in the City of Lancaster, to include a set of recommendations that can begin to address the issues.

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RBF Consulting has provided superior vision plans and work programs in the past for the North Downtown Transit Village, Northeast Gateway Corridors Plan, and the Lowtree Neighborhood Vision Plan. In addition, RBF Consulting prepared the Citywide Housing Needs Assessment, and is well versed with the current problems of homelessness. These elements will be instrumental to the success of the Homeless Needs Assessment.

Staff recommends entering into a Professional Services Agreement with RBF Consulting to provide a complete Citywide Homeless Needs Assessment. It is further recommended, that authorization be granted to the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute the Professional Services Agreement and all attendant documents.

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