

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

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MEETING DATE: September 28, 2023

PREPARED BY: Jason Austin, Social Services Coordinator

REQUEST: APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH KINGDOM CAUSES DBA CITY NET  
FOR CITY HOMELESS OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve an agreement for \$250,813.13 with Kingdom Causes DBA City Net to provide street outreach and engagement homeless services from October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, with two optional one year extensions.
2. Authorize Director of Finance to appropriate \$101,000 in unobligated Opioid Settlement Special Funds to Account No. 2264212-4309000 and transfer \$150,000 from Permanent Local Housing Allocation Funds Account No. 2254199-4501000 to Account No. 2254212-4309000.
3. Authorize the City Attorney to make non-monetary changes to the agreement and the City Manager or designee to execute the agreement.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

The City Council has been committed to addressing homelessness through activities and projects that provide support to those experiencing homelessness in the City. Over the last two County-facilitated Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts, Palm Desert counted 26 and 39 unhoused individuals in Years 2022 and 2023 respectively. To engage those experiencing homelessness, the City had contracted with the County's Homeless Outreach Program since July 2019. In July 2023, the City released an updated request for proposal for street outreach and engagement homeless services. That process was completed in August 2023 with a new provider identified to move forward for City Council approval.

City Net is one of the largest street outreach nonprofit providers in Southern California with fifty active city, county, state, and federal contracts providing homeless and social services to vulnerable populations. This new agreement proposes to commence immediately upon City Council approval for a street outreach and engagement program in Palm Desert. City Net will provide two full-time Case Managers and administrative support to engage individuals experiencing homelessness in the city. As this contract will be funded by Opioid Settlement Funding, the program will have a focus on screening participants for substance use and mental health issues and linking them to appropriate levels of care in addition to shelter and housing.

The City Council has previously opted-in to the Opioid Settlement Agreements which includes language designating eligible uses including addressing the needs of communities of color and vulnerable populations including sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations that are disproportionately impacted by Substance Use Disorders.

City of Palm Desert  
Approve Agreement for Homeless Outreach Services

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The goal of these services is to engage individuals experiencing homelessness where they are in the City to provide linkage to housing, treatment or supportive services. This requires having trained outreach responders in the field engaging unhoused individuals repeatedly to build trust in an effort to connect them to treatment and increased housing stability.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney’s office.

**APPOINTED BODY RECOMMENDATION:**

This program was approved by the City’s Homeless Task Force as part of their Annual Work Plan.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The Opioid Settlement Agreements made available for participation by cities and counties provided \$100,000 in revenue in 2022/23. It is anticipated to grow to approximately \$175,000 annually over the next ten years for the City to connect unhoused individuals to behavioral health services and housing. Additionally, the Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) Program has been established as an additional funding source for homeless programs in the City. This outreach and engagement program will be funded by these two funding sources as shown in the table below. There is no impact to the General Fund with this action.

Source	Appropriation/Transfer	
	Requested	2023/24
Opioid Settlement	2254212-4309000	101,000
PLHA Grant	2264212-4309000	150,000
	<b>Budget Available</b>	<b>251,000</b>
City Net Agmt	Oct 1 - June 30, 2024	250,813
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>187</b>

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. City Net Program Proposal
2. City Net Professional Services Agreement