

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



COLLEEN HAMPSEY,
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
(904) 255-5151

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 630-3403

Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-804

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Salem

Date of Introduction: November 14, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R, F

Date of Analysis: November 13, 2023

Type of Action: *Ordinance Code* amendment, waiver and exemption; appropriation; designation of oversight agency

Bill Summary: This bill amends Section 111.270 (Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund), Part 2 (Health and Human Services), Chapter 111 (Special Revenue and Trust Accounts), *Ordinance Code* to authorize the disbursement of funds for administrative costs. The bill includes an appropriation of \$200,000 from the Contingency account to the Subsidies and Contributions to Private Organizations account within the Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund to provide funding to I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Inc. for the Homeless Diversion Program.

The exemption in Section 126.107(g), *Ordinance Code* is invoked to permit the procurement of services from Sulzbacher without competitive solicitation; Section 118.107, *Ordinance Code* is waived to allow for direct contracting with Sulzbacher; Subsection 118.301(a)(3)(ii), *Ordinance Code* is waived to allow for use of a portion of the City funds for security and/or utility deposits for qualified households receiving assistance through the Program. Sulzbacher will report quarterly regarding program outcomes to the Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Safety and Health Committee. The Grants and Contract Compliance Division of the Finance and Administration Department will provide oversight.

Background Information: The Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund was created through Ordinance 2023-671 to be used to assist first-time homeless individuals or families to obtain temporary or permanent housing and other necessities. The Homeless Diversion Program is a pilot program implemented by Sulzbacher to provide diversion services to avoid entering the Shelter/Homeless system through a safe housing alternative, short- or longer-term, to include: a negotiated return to their previous housing; short-term, non-shelter accommodation; apartments or homes, (including shared housing) or returns to family. This appropriation will enable Sulzbacher to expand the program with the goal to assist 100 clients per year at a maximum cost of up to \$1,500 each household, for hotel assistance, vehicle repairs, moving assistance, child-care assistance, security and utility deposits. To be eligible, the person or family must reside in Duval County, must have already lost their permanent housing, be currently staying with family or friends or about to lose the place where they stayed last night, and seeking entry into the shelter system. The Urban Rest Stop will be the single point of entry for the clients in the Diversion Program. \$20,000 of the \$200,000 appropriation may be allocated towards a dedicated Diversion Case Manager to assist with housing placement, needed resources and housing stability.

Policy Impact Area: Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund - Homeless Diversion Program

Fiscal Impact: Appropriation of \$200,000

Analyst: Hampsey