

July 6, 2020

Honorable London Breed
Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco CA 94102

Dear Mayor Breed:

As you know, the Local Homeless Coordinating Board is charged with oversight and coordination of HUD funding of the City's Homelessness Response System ("HRS"). To fulfill our charge, we must review the entire City budget on homelessness with careful scrutiny. Last month, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing presented its proposed budget for the next two fiscal years. Per your request, the proposed budgets contain 10% and 5% budget cuts for FY20-21 and FY 21-22, respectively.

We are writing today to advise you that we cannot support a budget that makes cuts to the City's HRS. COVID-19 has already greatly strained and disrupted our HRS, causing HSH and our non-profit partners to pivot their entire programming infrastructure over the course of the past few months. Given the ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19, we expect that our HRS will continue to be impacted and will likely have to care for more people, not less. Moreover, we know that to transition successfully from COVID-19 response to recovery, we must be able to protect the health of our most vulnerable residents, many of whom are homeless. If we do not, we will likely face the types of setbacks we are seeing in other parts of the State and around the country.

Thus, we believe that cutting the HSH budget would be detrimental to people experiencing homelessness and our entire community. We urge you to maintain the budget that HSH proposed in February.

Sincerely yours,