REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: November 6, 2026

CAO File No. 0220-05151-0874
Council File No. 26-0600,
23-1022,
23-1348
Council District: Citywide

To: The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Reference: Alliance Settlement Agreement

Subject: **EMERGENCY WEATHER RESPONSE REPORT - WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM (WSP) AND INCLEMENT WEATHER PROGRAM (IWP)**

SUMMARY

This report recommends to transfer funding from the Unappropriated Balance to support Winter Shelter activations during the FY 2026-27 winter season. It includes a report from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) that redesigns the Winter Shelter Program (WSP) to use only motel vouchers and short-term activations under the Augmented Winter Shelter Program (AWSP) instead of the combination of AWSP and the Seasonal Winter Shelter Program (SWSP) which utilizes beds at site-based shelters continuously throughout the season. The report also provides a utilization plan that includes City outreach workers instead of contracting with 211 LA to provide voucher distribution services.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council, subject to approval by the Mayor:

1. TRANSFER up to $1,560,735 from the Unappropriated Balance (UB) Fund No. 100/58, Account No. 580454, Winter Shelter Program, to a new account within the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) Fund No. 10A/43, Account No. 43EA80, Winter Shelter Program to provide funding for motel vouchers to be used during activations through March 31, 2027;

2. INSTRUCT the General Manager of LAHD, or designee, to amend the FY 2026-27 General Fund agreement (C-205714) with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to add $1,560,735 for a new up to total contract amount of $57,227,323.85 with the following allocation:
    a. Add up to $1,560,735 for FY 2026-27 expenses for a new up to amount of $28,278,055.35 in Shelter and Housing Interventions

BACKGROUND

Programs

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) oversees the implementation of the three shelter programs: the Seasonal Winter Shelter Program (SWSP), the Augmented Winter Shelter Program (AWSP), and the Inclement Weather Program (IWP), to provide year-round support, temporary housing, and case management during severe weather and other emergency events.

The SWSP and AWSP operate from November 1 through March 31 of each fiscal year. The SWSP utilizes site-based shelters continuously throughout the season. Beds can be located at existing year-round interim housing sites or at sites only utilized for the winter season. The AWSP is activated on a short-term basis during severe weather conditions for three to five days, depending on the length of need, and utilizes pop-up congregate shelters and hotel/motel vouchers. The two programs are supported by the City General Fund and Emergency Solutions Grant.

The IWP operates from April 1 through October 31 of each fiscal year. Similar to the AWSP, this program is activated on a short-term basis during severe weather conditions for three to five days. The program is supported by Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) funds.

On May 6, 2026, Council adopted an instruction for the CAO to engage with the County to establish a County-run All Weather Shelter Program.

During the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget process, Council set aside $1,560,735 in General Fund within the Unappropriated Balance for the WSP, subject to a report from LAHSA with information on further policy development.

Additionally, Council instructed the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to report back on a redesign of the SWSP and IWP to enable distribution of motel vouchers at the discretion of the City, add funding to the City's Recreation and Parks for Emergency Response and Shelter Activations Support, and increase Problem-Solving funding at Access Centers and Safe Parking sites (C.F. 23-1022-S33).

Table 1 below provides a detailed breakdown of the funding sources supporting the three shelter programs.

Table 1

Program	Funding Source	2025-26	2026-27
Winter Shelter (SWSP and AWSP)	General Fund / Unappropriated Balance	$1,560,735	$1,560,735
	Emergency Solutions Grant	$1,254,000	$1,329,214
Inclement Weather Program (IWP)	Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention	$2,378,185	$2,378,185
Winter Shelter (SWSP and AWSP)	Emergency Solutions Grant (PY 51 Rollover)	$0	$1,375,492
	Total	**$5,192,920**	**$6,643,626**

DISCUSSION

The attached report from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) proposes to streamline Winter Shelter response by combining the three programs into one activation-based program, operated through motel vouchers only to maximize the number of participants that can be connected to temporary shelter during adverse weather events (Attachment 1). Table 2 below provides a detailed breakdown of LAHSA's proposed budget for the Emergency Response Program (ERP), which includes the Inclement Weather Program (IWP).

Table 2

Expense	Units	Rate	Days	Total Allocation
Motel Vouchers	328	$125	151	$6,183,826
Staffing				$436,800
Materials				$8,000
Transportation				$15,000
			Grand Total	**$6,643,626**

LAHSA estimates that this budget will support approximately 328 vouchers per day over 151 activation days, assuming a $125 nightly motel voucher rate per activation. The number of motel vouchers allocated during an activation may fluctuate depending on the severity of the weather event. The proposed breakdown also includes an allocation for one-time use materials, such as ponchos, hand warmers, and emergency blankets to be distributed by outreach teams.

The FY 2026-27 allocation no longer proposes funding for 211 LA to distribute motel vouchers during City activations. The contract was previously supported jointly by City and County; however, the County has contracted separately with 211 LA to distribute its own vouchers this fiscal year. If the City would like to utilize 211 LA for motel voucher distribution, it would need to identify $1,037,958.00 to cover the service cost. As an alternative, LAHSA is proposing that the City identify how many motel vouchers will be available and the distribution among Council Districts when activations occur. LAHSA will then work with Council Offices and City-funded outreach teams to identify participants and refer them through LAHSA's ERP City Motel Voucher - Request Form (FY 26-27). More details are included in Attachment 1.

The County of Los Angeles has an Emergency Response Program (ERP) that is activated when there are extreme weather events and during fire season that includes a mixture of permanent and temporary sites plus motel vouchers and operates year-round. The County uses a three level approach to ensure maximum availability of beds to individuals who need them. The first level includes looking at existing interim housing sites and opening up vacant beds to anyone who is unsheltered, which is considered "reverse matching." There is no additional cost for this method and vacancies are filled by occupants from encampment resolution efforts focused on areas which are anticipated to be impacted by the adverse event. The second level incorporates the use of motel vouchers and utilizing unfunded beds at existing interim housing sites to temporarily increase capacity. These beds are funded at $89/night regardless of the site size for short-term use. The County has contracted with 211 LA to operate a phone system and deploy motel vouchers. The total contract is $2,290,000 with approximately $300,000 allocated for motel vouchers. The last level of activation is to establish pop up shelters on park land and other short-term, emergency approaches. The last level is supported by one-time funding as needed. The County has stated that this program includes County funded locations within the City of Los Angeles and that resources are available to participants within City limits.

Lastly, discussions are ongoing between the Mayor's Office and the Recreation and Parks Department to operationalize Emergency Response and Shelter Activations Support. At this time, the Department has identified sites that have been used in previous years and inspections have been completed by the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) in case the sites are used this season. At this time, no additional funding has been requested; however, this may change depending on severity of activations.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no General Fund impact as a result of the recommendations in this report. The recommendations in this report utilize funding from the proposed FY 2026-27 General Fund budget and Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report comply with the City Financial Policies in that budgeted funds are being used to fund recommended actions.

Attachments:

1. LAHSA Memo - Emergency Response Program FY 26-27 Implementation Recommendation

MWS:MTB:KMS:SBL:16270010

707 Wilshire Blvd., 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Ph: 213 683.3333
Fax: 213 892.0093
TTY: 213 553.8488
www.lahsa.org

MEMO

Date: November 5, 2026

To: Meg Barclay, Assistant City Administrative Officer, City of Los Angeles
Kimberly Farnham, Director of Homelessness Oversite Bureau, LAHD

From: Kelsey Madigan, Deputy Chief Programs Officer, LAHSA
Sophia Rice, Chief Programs Officer, LAHSA
Paul Rubenstein, Chief of Staff, LAHSA

CC: Mayor Karen Bass, City of Los Angeles
Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Council President, Los Angeles City Council
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer, City of Los Angeles

Re: **EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM FY 26-27 Implementation Recommendation**

BACKGROUND

Since 1993, the City of Los Angeles has funded the Winter Shelter Program and Inclement Weather Program. In recent years, the Winter Selter Program has consisted of Seasonal Winter Shelter (SWSP) and Augmented Winter Shelter Program (AWSP) components. The SWSP typically operates emergency shelters that are open continuously during the winter season, while the AWSP provides motel vouchers and pop-up shelters during severe weather events. In all years, SWSP and AWSP operated from November 1 through March 31.

The Inclement Weather program is funded by the City and operates from July 1 – October 31 and April 1 – June 30, the months that the Winter Shelter Program is not in operation. 211 LA also previously received funding for the winter season and activations for severe weather events throughout the year to provide resource and referral services into temporary shelter.

PROPOSAL

In response to growing year-round needs driven by the increasing unpredictability of extreme weather events resulting from climate change, LAHSA restructured the Winter Shelter and Inclement Weather program models into a unified year-round Emergency Response Program (ERP). This proposed model streamlines administrative processes by operating through motel

707 Wilshire Blvd., 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Ph: 213 683.3333
Fax: 213 892.0093
TTY: 213 553.8488
www.lahsa.org

MEMO

vouchers only, maximizing the number of participants we can connect to temporary shelter during adverse weather events.

Expenses and Budget

Type	Units	Rate	Days	Total Allocation
Motel Vouchers	328	$125.00	151	$6,183,829
Staffing				$436,800
Supplies				$8,000
Transportation				$15,000
Grand Total				**$6,643,626**

These estimates utilize the total cost of LAHSA's year-round Emergency Response Program (ERP) at $6,643,626, a $125/voucher rate, and a baseline of 151 days out of the year when ERP Activations are most likely to occur, which amounts to 328 motel vouchers. FY 2026-2027 ERP funding includes $5,268,134 and an additional underspend of $1,375,492.45 from FY 2025-2026 ESG.

This budget includes $8,000 dedicated to outreach supplies to support participants who remain on the street during a severe weather event. These supplies include hand warmers, ponchos and emergency blankets that can be distributed to participants.

Throughout fiscal year 2025-2026, the cost of 211LA's services was shared equally by the County and the City. During the current 2026-27 fiscal year, the County will distribute its own hotel/motel vouchers and will no longer fund LAHSA to do this work. This fiscal year, it would cost the City $1,037,958.00 to fund 211LA, reducing funds available to support participant motel vouchers significantly.

Resource Matching

During each adverse weather event where the Mayor's Office directs LAHSA to activate the ERP Motel Voucher program, the Mayor's Office should dictate how many slots to allocate to each Council District. Slot allocation should be determined by such factors as the severity of the weather event in the corresponding area, number of participants experiencing homelessness in that area, year-to-date expenditures, and additional criteria as necessary. Each city funded

707 Wilshire Blvd., 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Ph: 213 683.3333
Fax: 213 892.0093
TTY: 213 553.8488
www.lahsa.org

MEMO

outreach team or identified referring party will then refer these participants to LAHSA via the LAHSA ERP City Motel Voucher - Request Form (FY 26-27), prior to LAHSA identifying available motel rooms and notifying the city funded outreach teams of the match. (City funded outreach teams include Council District contracted teams and LAHSA outreach teams.)

LAHSA will work with outreach teams to maintain a roster of participants who accessed a motel voucher, when they exited, and where they exited to. Outreach teams or identified referring party will then collect and provide completed and signed motel vouchers to LAHSA for invoice processing.

This model also increases each Council District Office's access for placing their constituents into LAHSA-managed interim housing beds. When an emergency response activation ends, LAHSA's Interim Housing Matching Team prioritizes matching participants who desire continued interim housing (through LAHSA's IH Prioritization Process) into available interim housing beds.

CONCLUSION

This model provides the most motel voucher slots for participants, allows for regional distribution of emergency response resources, and reduces administrative burden and the need for additional programmatic oversight. This model ultimately allows LAHSA, in partnership with the city, to respond to emergencies more efficiently throughout the year, allocating the bulk of funding to reach participants in need.

Best,

Kelsey Madigan, LCSW
Deputy Chief Programs Officer