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Budget Action description:

This green sheet would provide \$100,000 in 2015 and 2016 from GSF to HSD to contract with one or more service providers to connect the hardest to reach homeless youth and young adults with available services, such as: shelter, housing, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and employment. This includes youth and young adults staying in informal encampments in parks, under bridges, and in other places not fit for human habitation. The expected goals are to establish a regular, visible presence, make immediate referrals to services, and actively address barriers to shelter and housing.

The contracted organization(s) would make regular visits to encampments/hotspots such as Cal Anderson Park, Westlake Center, Eastlake, and Denny Way. They would engage with at least 300 street-involved youth per year and make at least 100 referrals to services. They would work with young people and their social network, or “street family,” to identify harm reduction goals and actively address barriers to shelter and housing.

Background:

Street outreach provided by organizations such as YouthCare works extremely well at connecting most young people on the streets to additional services. However, young people who are severely street-entrenched need additional focus and support to connect them with services and work with them to move out of homelessness. These young people may include:

- Youth partnered with (or who have formed close bonds with) individuals outside of the age-range for services (currently at YouthCare, the age limit is 22 years old for drop-in services, and 24 years old for case management, emergency shelter, and some employment training);
- Youth with pets;
- Youth with drug and alcohol dependency, especially methamphetamine use;
- Youth with untreated/unmanaged mental health issues;
- Youth without photo ID;
- Undocumented youth;
- Young adults who have aged out of day services;
- Youth banned from accessing services on-site for violating safety/behavior guidelines; and
- Youth and young adults with combinations of multiple barriers.

While these deeply entrenched young people represent a small fraction of the total homeless youth population, they are often highly visible to community members and may be more frequently contacted by emergency medical services and/or law enforcement for camping, public disorder, and other misdemeanors stemming from living outside.

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Budget Action Transactions

Budget Action Title: Add \$100,000 funding in 2015 and 2016 from GSF to HSD to provide street outreach for hardest to reach youth and young adults

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Increase GSF support to HSD for street outreach services for hardest to reach youth and young adults.				FG	Human Services Operating Fund	Q5971620	00100	2015		\$100,000
2	Increase revenue from GSF to HSD for street outreach services for hardest to reach youth and young adults.				HSD	General Subfund Support	587001	16200	2015	\$100,000	
3	Increase appropriation for street outreach services for hardest to reach youth and young adults.				HSD	Youth and Family Empowerment	H20YF	16200	2015		\$100,000
4	Increase GSF support to HSD for street outreach services for hardest to reach youth and young adults.				FG	Human Services Operating Fund	Q5971620	00100	2016		\$100,000
5	Increase revenue from GSF to HSD for street outreach services for hardest to reach youth and young adults.				HSD	General Subfund Support	587001	16200	2016	\$100,000	

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#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
6	Increase appropriation for street outreach services for hardest to reach youth and young adults.				HSD	Youth and Family Empowerment	H20YF	16200	2016		\$100,000