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City Council Approves Assistance for Citizens Receiving Housing Vouchers

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As many as 25 households in Palm Springs who currently have tenant-based housing vouchers from the County of Riverside, but cannot find a place to rent will soon get some much needed assistance from the City of Palm Springs.

On Wednesday night, the City Council voted 5-0 to continue efforts to assist by allocating \$100,000 for a program to help people whose housing vouchers do not cover the cost of rent.

With voucher values decreasing and rents going up, the goal of the program is to bridge the gap between the voucher, and what it costs to pay rent in Palm Springs.

“With about \$4,000 a year, we can get a family off the street. This is a good use of money, short-term before the vouchers expire,” said Mayor pro tem Geoff Kors, who serves on the City Council’s Affordable Housing and Homelessness Subcommittee.

The \$100,000 in assistance will come from the City’s Housing Fund.

“It’s a relatively low cost to get people off the streets who have government subsidies, but cannot find housing,” said City Councilmember Christy Holstege, who serves with Kors on the subcommittee.

“We know when someone is housed, 80 percent stay, and their income goes up. They become productive and happier,” said Kors.

