



Office of the City Manager

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CONSENT CALENDAR
February 22, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services
Subject: Revenue Contract: Department of Health Care Services for \$1,000,000 for Crisis Care Mobile Units

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to accept an award of funding provided by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) through the Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) Program and execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments to augment the City's investment in piloting and evaluating a Specialized Care Unit (SCU) in an amount up to \$1,000,000 through Fiscal Year 2025.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The City of Berkeley will receive funds from DHCS through the CCMU Program in an amount up to \$1,000,000 through Fiscal Year 2025. The funds for this contract will be deposited and expensed from the One-Time Grant: general ledger codes 336-51-501-501-2075-000-451-various (expenditures) and 336-51-501-501-2075-000-000-431110- (revenue). Funds will be appropriated in a future amendment to the Annual Appropriations Ordinance.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley's Health, Housing, and Community Services Department (HHCS) applied for a \$1,000,000 grant for the Crisis Care Mobile Units Program with DHCS. HHCS was awarded the funding, which will support the development and implementation of a Specialized Care Unit (SCU).

The Specialized Care Unit (SCU) is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing the City of Berkeley's goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity by piloting and evaluating a new model of crisis care. The Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) program will augment the City's investment in piloting and evaluating the SCU, with a goal of providing crisis services 24/7, 365 days per year in response to crisis calls related to behavioral health/mental health, substance use, and homelessness that do not require the presence of law enforcement. HHCS applied for this funding to ensure the success of the pilot program and to allow for more comprehensive implementation.

BACKGROUND

On July 14, 2020, in Resolution No. 69,501-N.S., City Council directed the City Manager to transform community safety and initiate a robust community engagement process. This directive included the design and implementation of a Specialized Care Unit (SCU) pilot that would respond to mental health and substance use crises without involvement of law enforcement. Through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process under Specification No. 20-11357-C, Resource Development Associates (RDA) was selected to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study that included a deep community engagement process, best practice research, data collection, program design, and an implementation plan for an SCU for Berkeley. In collaboration with an SCU Steering Committee facilitated by HHCS, RDA has completed the process and published three critical reports that are available on the City's Reimagining Public Safety Website:

Report 1: Crisis Response Models: in which nearly 40 non-police crisis response models across North America were studied and compared.

Report 2: Berkeley SCU Current State: which describes in detail the current state of the City's crisis response, and shares insights learned during the deep community engagement process led by the consultant with support from the steering committee.

Report 3: SCU Crisis Response Recommendations which contains specific recommendations for what the best SCU model will be for Berkeley based upon the findings shared in the first two reports. These findings serve as a roadmap for finalizing the design, creating the infrastructure, and implementing the SCU.

The SCU Steering Committee is now moving on to the implementation phase and will be relying on documents developed by RDA as a roadmap for implementation.

On June 30, 2021, in Resolution No. 69,949-N.S., Council provided \$8 million in funding for "Programs Addressing Community Safety and Crisis Response" that included funding for the SCU. Recognizing that funding would be needed from multiple sources, City staff also applied for a competitive grant opportunity that became available through DHCS's CCMU program and was awarded the maximum amount of \$1,000,000 through Fiscal Year 2025. This funding will support preliminary staffing and infrastructure of the SCU.

This SCU will consist of trained crisis-response field workers who will respond to mental health crisis occurrences that posed on imminent threat to safety without the involvement of law enforcement. Through implementation of the SCU with support from the CCMU grant, staff anticipate the following direct outcomes:

- 1) Reduction in the rate of BPD being dispatched to respond to mental and behavioral health crises,

- 2) Reduction in the prevalence of psychiatric mental health emergency cases in the City and County's hospitals that originate from Berkeley, and
- 3) Increase in percentage of mental health crisis events that have a behavioral health response.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

These funds will support the City's ability to provide services for individuals experiencing a crisis in Berkeley. Providing safe and equitable access to essential health services is a key purpose of HHCS. The funding provided in this agreement will augment the City's investment in the Specialized Care Unit.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternatives consistent with the City's goal of providing equitable mental health services were identified.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

REVENUE CONTRACT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR CRISIS
CARE MOBILE UNITS

WHEREAS, Berkeley City Council directed the City Manager to evaluate initiatives and reforms that reduce the footprint of the Police Department and limit the Police's scope of work primarily to violent and criminal matters; and

WHEREAS, City of Berkeley community members would prefer a mental health crisis response system that does not so heavily involve law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the services this funding will cover align with the Strategic Plan goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that City Manager or her designee is authorized to accept an award of funding, to execute a contract and any amendments with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for the design and implementation of a Specialized Care Unit (SCU) and appropriate the funding in a future amendment to the Annual Appropriations Ordinance in the estimated amount of \$1,000,000 for the period beginning September 15, 2021 and ending June 30, 2025. General ledger codes 336-51-501-501-2075-000-451-various (expenditures) and 336-51-501-501-2075-000-000-431110- (revenue). A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the City Clerk Department.