



Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

ACTION CALENDAR  
May 7, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Human Welfare and Community Action Commission (HWCAC)  
Submitted by: Mary Behm-Steinberg, Chairperson, HWCAC  
Subject: HWCAC Community Agency Funding Recommendations Fiscal Year 2025-2028

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission's (HWCAC's) recommendation to allocate funding to agencies providing services to the poor as detailed in Attachment 1.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The fiscal impact of this recommendation is to maintain current the current expenditure of Measure E and \$563,266 in City General Funds and Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Funds.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The HWCAC advises Council on issues affecting low-income residents of Berkeley, and recommends funding for services that form a social safety net to assist these residents. The HWCAC makes recommendations regarding the Community Services Block Grant Community Action Plan and the allocation of resources to carry out that plan. The Community Action Plan emphasizes the provision of basic human needs: food, shelter, medical care and employment. Agencies apply for funding to offer services to low-income seniors, youth, families, racial and ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities through a variety of supportive programs, including medical care and legal services. This year, the HWCAC met in January, February and March to review funding applications and develop funding recommendations. At the meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the HWCAC finalized its funding recommendation as follows and as detailed in Attachment 1. **M/S/C:** (Lippman/Lara Cruz) to finalize funding recommendations. **Vote:** Ayes – Behm-Steinberg, Bohn, Lara Cruz, Lippman; **Noes** – None; Abstain – None; **Absent** – None.

A. Maintain existing funding levels for FY2024 programs, except:

1. Family Violence Law Center requested a funding increase to fund an advocate position that works with Berkeley Police Department and

domestic violence victims, as well as to provide additional attorney time. Since the HWCAC deeply believes in the services FVLC provides to advocate for victims of domestic violence, it recommends that the City partially fund the increase to levels shown in attachment A.

2. Lifelong Medical Services submitted funding for three separate programs, Access to Primary Care for Low-income residents, Primary Geriatric Care/Hypertension Program and a new separate allocation towards Access to Acupuncture for Detox services. HWCAC believes in accessible healthcare services and recommends partially funding all three requests at the amounts shown in attachment A.
  3. J-Sei requested a funding increase to further fund their senior services in Berkeley. The HWCAC is a proponent of comprehensive senior services and knows J-Sei provides necessary services to seniors in need, so it recommends that the City partially fund the increase to levels shown in attachment A.
  4. Through the Looking Glass requested a funding increase to fund their Berkeley Parenting and Disability Project. The HWCAC recommends funding part of their increase so they can continue to provide exemplary services.
  5. Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative requested a substantial increase in funding as they continue to expand to several different community areas. The HWCAC deeply believes in the expansion of green spaces and community gardens throughout the City, especially in low-income areas. The HWCAC recommends funding part of their increase request.
  6. The HWCAC makes the following recommendation regarding Bonita House: the Berkeley Wellness Center provides an important service to the community and fits within the mission of the HWCAC. However, due to constraints with the funds available, HWCAC recommends that the City does not continue to fund Bonita House. The recommendation was not made lightly as the HWCAC values the work that Bonita House does in Berkeley, but the HWCAC believes that Bonita House is an organization that is financially sound and can work to fund the program through other avenues.
- B. The HWCAC provides the following note to the agencies that submitted proposals: We wanted to fully fund many of the programs you proposed, but we did not have the funds available to do so. We received requests totaling several hundreds of thousands of dollars more than is allocated in the City General Fund. Thank you for taking the time to go through the RFP process. We know it is

complicated and we appreciate your time and effort in this process and in your work improving the lives of Berkeley residents.

BACKGROUND

With experience reviewing application for funding from previous fiscal years, commissioners reviewed funding proposals submitted via the City’s online application process. The Commission discussed and finalized funding recommendations at a regular meeting on March 6, 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental impacts or opportunities associated with the action suggested in this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The HWCAC reviewed requests for 13 programs offered by 11 agencies. The HWCAC recommends funding to agencies as detailed in Exhibit A.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The HWCAC considered alternate funding allocations that fully funded more programs but offered funding to fewer agencies in total. The Commission decided to prioritize funding more programs to ensure that more types of services would be available to low-income residents of Berkeley.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission’s Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Mary-Claire Katz, Commission Secretary, HHCS, 510-981-5414

Attachments:

- 1: Commission Funding Recommendations



## Attachment 1 HWCAC – Funding Recommendations

Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

Project Sponsor	Program Name	Type of Service	Funding Source	Amount Requested	Commission Recommendation
<b>RETURNING PROGRAMS</b>					
Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (BORP)	Recreational Services for Disabled	Disability Services	GF	\$69,800	\$43,592
Berkeley Community Gardening Collab.	Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative	Other Services	GF	\$153,052	\$51,632
Bonita House Inc.	Berkeley Wellness Center	Health Care Services - General	GF	\$25,000	\$0
East Bay Community Law Center	Consumer Justice Clinic	Legal/Advocacy/Mediation Services	GF	\$113,119	\$33,644
Easy Does It Emergency Services	Emergency Disability Services for Berkeley Residents	Disability Services - Measure E	Measure E	\$2,114,400	\$1,653,260
Family Violence Law Center	Domestic Violence & Homeless Prevention (DVHP)	Legal/Advocacy/Mediation Services	GF	\$82,080	\$75,000
J-Sei	Senior Services	Senior Services	GF	\$30,000	\$20,000
Lifelong Medical Care	Access to Acupuncture Detox Services	Health Care Services - Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Treatment	GF	\$73,625	\$29,855
Lifelong Medical Care	Access to Primary Care for the Low-Income/Uninsured	Health Care Services - General	CSBG/GF	\$167,933	\$160,000
Lifelong Medical Care	Primary Geriatric Care/Hypertension	Health Care Services - General	GF	\$166,224	\$114,543
Through The Looking Glass	Berkeley Parenting & Disability Project	Disability Services	GF	\$52,000	\$35,000
<b>NEW PROGRAMS</b>					
Associated Students of the University of California/ The Berkeley Project	Berkeley Project	Other Services	GF	\$32,000	\$0
Berkeley Food Network	Berkeley Food Network - Providing Food Assistance with Dignity	Other Services	GF	\$150,000	\$0

