

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, October 24, 2024
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Means called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: President Scott Means, Vice President Samantha Green (attended remotely due to illness), Board Members Gerald Bryant, Dianne Yamashiro-Omi, Bernie Wolf and Michelle Buchholz.

City staff: C'Mone Falls, Marcie Johnson, Andre Fairley, Gabriella San Diego, and Anata Tran (attended remotely).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-A Review and Approve September 26, 2024 Draft Minutes

A motion to approve the September 26, 2024, minutes was made by Board Member Michelle Buchholz and seconded by Board Member Bryant. Ayes: President Means, Vice President Green, Board Members Bryant, Yamashiro-Omi, Buchholz, and Wolf. Nays: none. Abstained: Board Member Pile. Motion passed 6-0-1.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A 2025-2026 CDBG Needs Staff Report

City Staff Andre Fairley presented on the 2025-26 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Needs for the fiscal year 2025-26 action plan. Please see Exhibit 1.

City Staff Fairley stated that SSHRB was going to review the CDBG FY 2025-26 Action Plan Process, confirm the community needs, develop a needs statement for the City Council Meeting Presentation on December 3, 2024, and agree to the methodology for awarding the fiscal year 2025-26 public services funding.

Local nonprofit organizations spoke to the needs of the community.

Doug Biggs, Executive Director of the Alameda Point Collaborative, highlighted the mental health crisis in the community, the need for light subsidies, 6 – 9 month subsidies, for those at risk of homelessness or newly homeless, and the need to improve human relations in the community.

Stephanie Penrod from the Family Violence Law Center (FVLC) shared the work of FVLC including wraparound services and case management. They serve a lot of low-income women with children. There is a need for interim financial assistance.

Angie Watson-Hajjem, Fair Housing Coordinator at Echo Housing, shared the counseling work that Echo Housing provides around fair housing and landlord rights, as well as their rental assistance program.

Caryl Mahar, Development Director at Spectrum Community Services, spoke about their senior meals program, which serves at Mastick Senior Center daily Monday through Friday. They need additional funding and will be applying for CDBG funding.

Liz Varela, Executive Director for Building Futures, spoke about the Midway Shelter, coordinated entry hub, Betsy Coleman Hub, and domestic violence services they provide. She also emphasized the increased need for mental health services and domestic violence support.

Gitanjali Rawat, Director of Programs at Eden I&R, spoke about their 211 services. The needs of their community included housing resources, utility assistance, food assistance, and health support.

Board Member Buchholz asked for clarification on the dates of the five-year plan and that this next grant cycle will be included in the next five-year plan.

Staff Member Fairley confirmed that the current five-year plan will expire on June 30, 2025, and that the CDBG Funding for 2025-26 will be included in the next five-year plan.

Board Member Yamashiro-Omi brought up the fact that there seems to be a slight decrease in funding annually, which was confirmed by President Means.

Staff Member Buchholz asked if CDBG funding needed to be allocated specifically for work done in the City of Alameda, which was confirmed by Staff Member Marcie Johnson.

Board Member Bernie Wolf identified that most presentations revolved around housing.

Staff Member Johnson indicated that in order to resolve the housing issues it cannot just be the City, but would also need county support.

Board Member Buchholz asked if there was a way to provide slight leniency in the allocation of CDBG funds to account for inflation.

Staff Member Johnson identified that there will be ways for organizations to identify ways to build flexibility into their application.

Vice President Green asked for clarification that SSHRB can present and request council to support increased costs. Staff Member Johnson confirmed.

President Means moved to direct staff in the preparation needs statement to confirm the community needs for fiscal year 2025-26 Community Block Grant to also designate himself and Vice President Green to review the statement and present the Board at the December 3, 2024, City Council Meeting and to determine the CDBG public services

funding will be prorated for fiscal year 2025-26. The motion was seconded by Board Member Buchholz.

Board Member Wolf asked for clarification on the proration of funds.

Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0-1.

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5-B The Road Home Annual Progress Report

Board Member Bryant asked about how often the charts will be updated.

Staff Member Johnson stated that the plan is to do it annually.

Board Member Buchholz stated how impressive it was to see where the report started and how it progressed.

Vice President Green asked for takeaways from the report from the Board.

President Means expressed the importance of transparency of where the project started and how its progressed.

Vice President Green expressed that it is important to her that they identify what the challenges are for the community so that they can meet the goals of the five-year plan.

Board Member Buchholz identified the importance of good governance and the forces impacting homelessness and housing insecurity.

President Means identified the need for more funding.

Board Member Bryant identified the need for more investment in temporary and permanent housing solutions, expanded staff and staff trainings, and community outreach.

President Means emphasized the importance of hygiene services, specifically shower and laundry services.

Board Member Buchholz reiterated the importance of getting the word out about SSHRB's work on The Road Home.

President Means stated he would like to do a coffee & conversation with seniors at the Mastick Center to inform them about the work of The Road Home.

Board Member Bryant believes SSHRB should get on social media to get the word out.

Staff Member Johnson stated that it is the role of SSHRB to promote their work in their personal spaces to get the word out.

Public Comment – None

President Means put forth a motion to accept The Road Home Progress Report and to designate Scott Means and Michelle Buchholz to represent the SSHRB at the November

19, 2024, City Council Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Board Member Bryant. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0-1.

5-C Discuss and Review Social Service Human Relations Board Workgroup Reports

Public Comment – None

- The Road Home/People Experiencing Homelessness (Means, Green, Buchholz):
 - Update was covered by The Road Home Progress Report
- Alamedans Together Against Hate (Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant):
 - United Against Hate Poster was torn down at the Healing Garden.
 - President Means stated the Angela Davis Mural at the Healing Garden has been defaced.
- Domestic Violence Task Force (Buchholz, Pile, Wolf):
 - October 30, 2024 will be the Domestic Violence Task Force Meeting, which will be highlighted by a presentation from MISSEY.
 - Board Member Wolf is still trying to connect with the ecumenical group in Alameda to try to collaborate.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Social Services Manager, Marcie Soslau Johnson offered the following updates for Housing and Human Services (HHS):

- Introduction of the new Housing and Human Services Manager, C'Mone Falls. Staff Member Falls introduced herself to the SSHRB Board.
- Staffing Updates – Anata Tran, Civic Spark Fellow. Staff Member Tran introduced herself to the SSHRB Board.
- On November 19, HHS will bring two items to council. First, is the Winter Warming Services Program. Additionally, the Alameda Warming Shelter, which will run if approved from December 1, 2024 – March 30, 2025. This will be brought to City Council along with The Road Home Progress Report.
- In collaboration with Alameda Pride and the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth, and their Families, the Alameda LGBTQ+ Teen Center opened on Friday, October 11, 2024, at The Veteran's memorial Building. There were six middle school students and fifteen high school students in attendance. The Teen Center will continue to run on the second Friday of every month from 6pm – 9pm.
- Community Outreach Specialist, Krystina Stephens, along with Staff Member Johnson visited with two Dignity Village residents that have been placed in one-bedroom units in Fremont. They believe staying connected with Alamedans who have experienced long-term homelessness in the City reduces recidivism.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

- President Means mentioned that he attended an AARP age friendly cities roundtable with Staff Member Johnson and Staff Member Tran. It was centered around transportation, and he felt it was a really good discussion. Additionally, President Means wants to verify that the Alameda's Age Friendly designation was accepted.
- Board Member Bryant informed the Board that Rise Up Alameda, a guaranteed basic income program has distributed 1.65 million dollars to the program recipients

over the last 11 months.

- Board Member Bryant informed the Board that the Black Panther Museum opened on 14th & Broadway in Oakland.
- Board Member Bryant informed the Board that there will be a reparations study on October 26, 2024, and November 2, 2024, for reparations for African Americans in Alameda.
- Vice President Green asked about the process of having a youth member on the SSHRB. Staff Member Johnson said the group will investigate how other commissions incorporate youth members.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Means adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB) Public Meeting

FY 2025-26 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Needs for FY 2025-26 Action Plan

City Staff: C'Mone Falls, Marcie Johnson, Andre Fairley and Gabriella San Diego

October 24, 2024



Tonight's Goals

- Review the CDBG FY 2025-26 Action Plan Process
- Confirm the Community Needs
- Develop Needs Statement for Presentation at City Council Meeting scheduled for December 3, 2024
- Agree to methodology for awarding FY 2025-26 public services funding



What is CDBG?

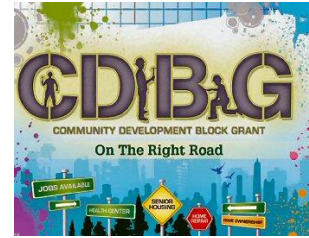
Federal funds to assist low- and moderate-income persons by providing:

- Decent Housing
- Suitable Living Environment
- Expanded Economic Opportunities



HUD Required Documents

- Five-Year Strategic Plan
- Annual Action Plan
 - Programs
 - Activities
 - Resources



Non-Housing Public Service Priorities Five Year Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Preserve Alameda's "Safety Net" services by prioritizing funding for programs that address:

- Affordable housing, fair housing and housing support for Tenant/landlord mediation, counseling and tenant's rights
- Food security and food services
- Homeless services
- Mental health services
- Safety and crime prevention
- Transportation and pedestrian safety



Outreach to Stakeholders

Staff contacted 39 local service providers and asked three questions:

1. What services does your organization provide?
2. What do you see as the biggest need for the communities you serve?
3. What do you feel is often unknown or unseen about the communities you serve, which would be helpful for the public to understand?



Stakeholder Identified Needs

Staff received 15 responses with the following needs:

- Access and Connection to Resources
- Affordable Housing / Rental Assistance
- Food Programs
- Legal Services, including Fair Housing
- Mental Health Services
- Senior Connections/ Community Outreach
- Healthcare Services
- Unrestricted Funding



Funding Availability

Public Service funding comes from 15% of the following:

- Entitlement Allocation from HUD
- Program Income received in the previous fiscal year

Program income is generated from the repayment of CDBG residential rehabilitation loans.

Program income continues to be received through June 30

- Staff estimates expected amount
- Annual Action Plan updated prior to submission



FY 2024-25 CDBG Funding

Source of Funding	Amount Allocated/Estimated	15% of Amount
FY 2024-25 CDBG Entitlement	\$1,112,658	\$166,899
Estimated Program Income from FY 2024-25	\$60,000	\$9,000
Estimated Amount Available for Public Services	\$1,172,658	\$175,899



FY 2024-25 Funding Allocations

Applicant	Service Offered	Amount
Alameda Family Services	School-Based Mental Health	\$67,755
Alameda Food Bank	Emergency Food Distribution	\$27,655
Building Futures	Emergency Shelter and Domestic Violence Support	\$105,505*
Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity (ECHO)	Housing Counseling	\$24,978
Eden I & R	Information and Referral Services	\$26,000**
Family Violence Law Center	Family Violence Prevention	\$29,630
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Education & Legal Assistance	\$24,692

* \$104,320 to be paid with Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) funds

** \$26,000 to be paid with CDBG Administration funds



Action Plan Schedule

Date	Action Item
TONIGHT	Social Service Human Relations Board Meeting
November 4, 2024	SSHRB Needs Letter Finalized
December 3, 2024	City Council Public Hearing on Community Needs
January 9, 2025	CDBG & HOME FY 2025 - 26 NOFA/RFP Released
February 10, 2025	CDBG FY 2025-26 NOFA/RFP Responses Due
February 27, 2025	Public Services Scoring due from SSHRB
March 28, 2025	SSHRB Meeting to Review Proposed Funding Levels
May 6, 2025	City Council Public Hearing
July 1, 2025	Start of Program Year



FY2025-26 Needs Process

- **Step 1:** Social Service Human Relations Board hears this presentation, receives public comments, and directs the preparation of a Needs Statement to confirm the ongoing needs for FY 2025-26.
- **Step 2:** SSHRB President prepares the community needs statement.
- **Step 3:** City Council hears public comment and adopts the Needs Statement for the FY 2025-26 Action Plan. (December 3, 2024)



