

May 7, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Audrey Hyman, President
Social Service Human Relations Board



Subject: Social Service Human Relations Board FY 2019-20 Community Development Block Grant
Public Service Allocation Recommendations

The Social Service Human Relations Board (Board) advises the City Council regarding the needs of Alameda residents, informed by its public meetings and its citywide community survey conducted every five years. Through these avenues, residents have the opportunity to express their concerns and provide comments on ways to address the social and human services issues in our community.

At the Special Meeting of the Board on November 29, 2018, staff of the Alameda Housing Authority (AHA) presented the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Needs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 Action Plan. Several nonprofit agencies helping Alameda residents commented on the status of services currently being provided on the island, emerging issues that need our awareness, and possible gaps in services that need our attention. The Board used the public comments and discussion from this meeting to develop a needs statement that was presented by the AHA to City Council on January 2, 2019. The AHA subsequently released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)/Request for Proposal (RFP) for CDBG Public Service to solicit qualified providers to deliver services to residents of Alameda that will address the concerns noted on the needs statement.

At the Board's February 28, 2019 meeting, the AHA presented the results of the NOFA/RFP and its recommendations for the CDBG Public Service funding. All of the currently funded subgrantees reapplied, and no new applications were received. As an entitlement jurisdiction that receives federal funds, the City is also required to comply with the federal Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing requirements. As such, the Board made the motion and approved the following recommendations from the AHA and in turn seeks the City Council's approval to adopt these recommendations:

- Fund the City's Fair Housing Program through a contract with ECHO Housing.
- Fund Eden Information & Referral (I&R) to help cover the City's portion of a countywide social services referral program to help homeless individuals and other low-income residents.
- Approve Eden I&R's request to enter into a three-year funding agreement in recognition of their unique responsibilities:
 - serving as the first point of contact for the coordinated entry system
 - playing a critical role in disaster preparedness and response in the event of an emergency through its 24/7 call center, staff training and participation in disaster drills, and by having a seat at the County Emergency Operation Center
- Return to a two-year funding cycle, beginning with FY 2020-21, for nonprofits funded under the CDBG Public Services agreement, except Eden I&R as described above.
- Assume the same level of funding as received in FY 2018-19 to support services in FY 2019-20 for a total of \$189,678.
- Set aside funding for Fair Housing and I&R services, and exclude these services from any proposed pro rata funding adjustments.
- Adjust funding allocation on a pro rata basis (except for Fair Housing and I&R services) rounded down in \$50 increments after the CDBG allocation for FY 2019-20 is published by the Department

of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Any surplus created by this approach will be distributed proportionately to the eligible subgrantees.

Below is a summary of the CDBG Public Services applications received in response to the NOFA/RFP, the current year's funding, the FY 2019-20 funding request, and AHA's recommended funding levels for FY 2019-20:

Applicant	Project Name	FY18-19 Funding	FY19-20 Request	Staff's Recommended Funding
Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity (ECHO)	Fair Housing	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Eden I & R	Information & Referrals	\$25,000	\$23,813	\$23,813
Alameda Food Bank	Emergency Food Distribution	\$25,615	\$25,615	\$25,615
Building Futures with Women and Children	Midway Shelter, DV Collaborative, Emergency Fund	\$76,830	\$76,830	\$76,830
Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity (ECHO)	Housing Counseling	\$8,915	\$8,915	\$8,915
Family Violence Law Center (FVLC)	Family Violence Prevention Project	\$19,750	\$19,750	\$19,750
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Legal Assistance and Education for Alameda Seniors	\$19,755	\$19,755	\$19,755
TOTAL		\$190,865	\$189,678	\$189,678

The CDBG Public Services funding has been a lifeline for thousands of individuals and families in Alameda who are food insecure, homeless, low-income, older adults, precariously housed, victims of domestic violence, and the general public looking for resources and support. Such funding provides a vital safety net for Alameda's most vulnerable residents. I am confident that the City Council would agree that these programs deserve continued support, and that the tireless efforts of these agencies providing services to Alameda should be commended. The Board fully supports these organizations for serving our community, and we hope that you will too.

Respectfully,



Audrey Hyman, President

Cc: Social Service Human Relations Board Community Development Director