



March 29, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Doug Biggs, President
Social Service Human Relations Board

Subject: Social Service Human Relations Board FY 2016 - 17 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service Allocation Recommendations

The Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB) advises the City Council regarding social service and human relations needs in Alameda. In 1997, the Council asked the SSHRB to participate in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process by reviewing and commenting on the public service needs and funding recommendations. This year, at the request of Alameda Housing Authority (AHA)/CDBG staff, the Board participated in the development of the Public Services Request for Proposals (RFP) and scoring criteria, evaluated and scored the applications, and assumed the responsibility of making recommendations regarding funding allocations for CDBG FY 2016-17 Public Services.

At our January 7th 2016 meeting, we heard a staff presentation on the CDBG process, received input from multiple service providers and reviewed the comments we provided to the Council in 2015. The input received from the service providers informed us about what is working well in Alameda, and where potential service gaps may exist. We prepared our letter describing the priorities for FY 2016-17 on January 11, 2016 noting that, because funding continues to be severely restricted, we are continuing to recommend only one area of need: **preserving Alameda's "Safety Net."**

AHA/CDBG staff informed the Board that there was a 3.1% reduction to the FY 16-17 CDBG Public Service cap leaving \$147,812 available for distribution to agencies applying for funds. The Board evaluated and scored seven qualified applications whose requests total \$187,636, \$39,824 more than is available for distribution.

Applicant	Request
Alameda Food Bank (AFB)	\$ 25,000.00
Building Futures with Women and Children (BFWC)- Midway Shelter	\$ 65,000.00
Family Violence Law Center (FVLC)	\$ 16,845.00
Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS)	\$ 15,000.00
ECHO-Tenant Landlord Services	\$ 7,291.00
BFWC- Tenant Based Rental Assistance -- Operating Funds / Administration	\$ 50,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 8,500.00
Total Request	\$ 187,636.00

Prior to its meeting of March 24, 2016, the Board received a letter from AHA staff, (Attachment A) informing the Board that Building Futures with Women and Children (BFWC) had withdrawn its application for Rental Assistance Operating/Administrative funds. The letter also stated that the Habitat for Humanity request included funding for some services the AHA is already receiving through Hello Housing, and that their request would not meet the SSHRB refined priority of safety net services.

The withdrawal of the two agencies left five agencies requesting a total of \$ 129,136, \$18,676 less than is available for distribution. The Board made the decision to approve the funding requests from the five agencies who had applied. It was noted that all five agencies provide valuable, quality services to our community, and that their total scores were almost identical. The Board voted to fund these agencies at their requested amounts:

Applicant	Request
Alameda Food Bank	\$25,000.00
Building Futures with Women and Children - Midway Shelter	\$65,000.00
Family Violence Law Center	\$16,845.00
Legal Assistance for Seniors	\$15,000.00
ECHO-Tenant Landlord Services	\$7,291.00
Total Request	\$129,136.00
Amount Available for funding	\$147,812.00
Excess funds	\$18,676.00

In their letter to the SSHRB, AHA staff suggested the Board consider allocating a portion of the remaining funds for homeless prevention services.

SSHRB is keenly aware of the crisis that the current housing market has imposed on Alamedans, particularly hurting low-income residents the most. However, the Board also felt that the City would be best served if a proposal to allocate funding to Emergency Homeless Prevention services went through the RFP process.

After discussion, the Board is recommending that the remaining \$18,676 be allocated on a prorated basis among the five applicants. All applicants at the meeting indicated a need and ability to provide more services if more funding was available, and the extra \$9,400 being allocated to BFWC could fund homeless prevention services if they chose to do so.

Applicant	Request	Prorated extra funds	Total recommended
Alameda Food Bank	\$25,000.00	\$3,615.57	\$28,615.57
Building Futures with Women and Children - Midway Shelter	\$65,000.00	\$9,400.48	\$74,400.48
Family Violence Law Center	\$16,845.00	\$2,436.17	\$19,281.17
Legal Assistance for Seniors	\$15,000.00	\$2,169.34	\$17,169.34
ECHO-Tenant Landlord Services	\$7,291.00	\$1,054.44	\$8,345.44
Total Request	\$129,136.00	\$18,676.00	\$147,812.00

The SSHRB fulfilled its duties as instructed by the City Council and hereby requests the Council to approve our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Doug Biggs, President
Social Service Human Relations Board

CC: Social Service Human Relations Board
Community Development Director



Housing Authority of the City of Alameda

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ATTACHMENT A

To: Social Services and Human Relations Board (SSHRB)

From: Claudia Young

Date: 3/17/2016

Re: CDBG FY 16-17 Public Services Funding Considerations

Staff would like to thank the Social Services and Human Relations Board for participating in the application review for the CDBG FY16-17 and FY17-18 funding cycles. The following should be taken into consideration during your review:

1. Staff has had discussion with Habitat for Humanity regarding the proposal for Housing Counseling and Literacy Program. The Housing Authority currently funds Hello Housing to provide services for the First-time Homebuyer Program. Although Hello Housing does not provide all the services proposed by Habitat for Humanity, there would be some duplication of services. In addition, this would not meet the SSHRB refined priority of safety net services. Staff informed Habitat for Humanity that they would be included in the next RFP cycle for our First Time Homebuyer Program, which is a better fit for funding such services.
2. Building Futures with Women and Children (BFWC): After careful consideration BFWC requested to rescind the submission for the Rental Assistance Operating/Administrative funds. BFWC will continue to administer the current Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA) and will reevaluate the option to continue the



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program in the coming years. Therefore, operating funds would not be needed at this time.

3. Staff would like to remind SSHRB that at this time we do not have Emergency Homeless Prevention funds. Every year staff receives a call with an emergency situation and it is important that there are funds available to address the emergency needs. In the past Building Futures has been funded with such an emergency fund, as the Mid County Housing Resource Center (HRC) for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) funds. It would be within SSHRB's purview to consider this need given our housing crisis, and to make a recommendation for emergency homeless prevention funds. Such a recommendation could be added to the scope of an existing applicant.

Thank you very much for your consideration and review of the Public Services applications.

Sincerely,

Claudia Young
HCD Program Manager
Housing Authority of the City of Alameda