



April 11, 2018

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 2018-19 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 through regularly scheduled public hearings and community survey administered every 5 years. Taken together, the surveys and public hearing input provide data that is used in preparing a consolidated plan for the expenditure of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that is submitted by the City of Alameda Housing Authority (AHA) to Housing and Urban Development for approval.

In 1997, the Council asked the SSHRB to participate in the CDBG process by reviewing and commenting on the public service needs and funding recommendations. At its November 30, 2017 meeting, the Board heard a presentation on the CDBG process, received input from multiple service providers, and reviewed the comments SSHRB provided to the Council in December 2016. At the request of Alameda Housing Authority's CDBG staff, the Board participated in the review for the CDBG Public Services applications FY 2018-2019 funding cycle.

At the SSHRB meeting on March 22, 2018, AHA staff explained that Public Services funding is capped at 15% of the annual CDBG entitlement amount plus the previous year's program income. Because the federal budget for Fiscal Year 18-19 (FY 18-19) was unknown at the time of the presentation, staff advised that the Board make recommendations assuming the same level of funding as received in FY17-18. The resulting projected total allocation for public services for FY 18-19 is \$180,468. Staff also presented recommendations for how to allocate funds in the event that the CDBG allocation is different from last year's. Staff recommended funding allocations be adjusted on a pro rata basis if the CDBG allocation for FY 18-19 is less than it was for FY 17-18. However, if the CDBG allocation for FY 18-19 is more than estimated, then Staff recommended that the allocation to Eden I&R be increased by \$6,444 up to a total of \$25,000. Any additional funds shall be allocated on a pro rata basis to the remaining public services. The total funds allocated to public services shall not to exceed the overall public services cap of 15%.

The SSHRB application review panel evaluated and scored seven applications whose requests total \$187,626, creating a shortfall of \$7,158 of what was available for distribution. The Board made

Applicant	Project Name	FY17-18 Funding	FY18-19 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 *	\$18,556	\$25,000	\$18,556
Alameda Food Bank	Emergency Food Distribution	\$28,616	\$25,000	\$25,000
Building Futures with Women and Children	Midway Shelter, DV Collaborative, Emergency Fund	\$74,401	\$75,000	\$75,000
Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity (ECHO)	Housing Counseling *	\$8,345	\$8,345	\$8,345
Family Violence Law Center (FVLC)	Family Violence Prevention Project	\$19,281	\$19,281	\$19,281
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Legal Assistance and Education for Alameda Seniors	\$17,169	\$20,000	\$19,286
TOTAL		\$181,368	\$187,626	\$180,468

the decision to approve the proposals from the seven agencies that applied given the importance of the services they provide to the Alameda community. In concurrence with AHA/CDBG staff recommendations, the Board voted to fund the following agencies at these funding levels:

Affordability of housing is a challenge in many communities, and Alameda is not immune to the crisis. SSHRB applauds the City's efforts to address homelessness in Alameda and is appreciative of the Council's commitment to addressing the issue of housing. However, many more residents and families are at-risk of being displaced as the cost of housing continues to rise. The organizations that submitted proposals for the CDBG Public Services funds are dedicated to serving the homeless in Alameda while preventing homelessness. We fully support these organizations for their work on behalf our community, and we hope that you will too.

Sincerely,



Audrey Hyman,
President, Social Services Human Relations Board

CC: Social Service Human Relations Board
Community Development Director