



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 14, 2021

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín
Subject: AAO Referral: Supply Bank

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the November 2021 Annual Appropriations Ordinance process \$25,000 for Supply Bank to support their services in providing essential school supplies to Berkeley families.

BACKGROUND

Supply Bank, formerly known as K to College, is a non-profit founded in 2008 by UC Berkeley students and alumni with the goal of equal access to higher education for low-income students. Throughout the years, Supply Bank broadened their mission from improving higher education accessibility to addressing the education resource gap afflicting low-income communities from kindergarten to college, primarily through its successful School Supply Initiative.

For over a decade, Supply Bank has partnered with the City of Berkeley and the Berkeley Unified School District to serve approximately 1,000 low-income students in Berkeley each year with a yearly citywide school supply and dental kit distribution. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Supply Bank was able to continue this tradition by providing supply kits to families at San Pablo Park on August 14.

Historically, the City Council has approved the request of Supply Bank to provide \$25,000 annually for their program. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Supply Bank was unable to make this request in time for the FY22 budget adoption in June. The \$25,000 would be retroactively applied to fund the event at San Pablo Park, and ensure that they can continue this essential program in future years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$25,000

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no environmental impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

CONTACT PERSON

AAO Referral: Supply Bank

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Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

Attachments:

1: Program Summary of 2021 Supply Bank Fair

2021 Citywide Berkeley School Supply Distribution and Resource Fair, Program Summary

Background

SupplyBank.Org's K to College program serves approximately 1,000 low-income students in Berkeley each year with a yearly citywide school supply and dental kit distribution in partnership with the City of Berkeley. SupplyBank.Org's collaborative effort, which also includes the Berkeley Unified School District, the Berkeley Public Education Fund, the City of Berkeley, First Covenant Church, local businesses and community leaders, will provide comprehensive grade-appropriate school supply and dental supply kits for low income (free/reduced price meal eligible) TK-12 Berkeley students.

Timeline

- **July and August 2021:** As described in K to College's memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD), BUSD will utilize its "robo-call" system, mailing lists and/or any other outreach methods to inform eligible and target students and families about planned distributions of the assembled kits.
- **August 2021:** Due to COVID-19, SupplyBank.Org was unable to host our annual school and dental supply assembly with several hundred volunteers at the Chevron Auditorium of the UC Berkeley International House in Berkeley. SupplyBank.Org leveraged our local relationships to have the kits built at a warehouse, transferring none of the additional costs to BUSD or the City of Berkeley.
- **August 14, 2021:** SupplyBank.Org coordinated with BUSD and the City of Berkeley Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department to conduct a one-day citywide distribution of the assembled kits. In addition to distributing supplies, this distribution was an excellent opportunity to continue the citywide resource fair where volunteers and staff from other organizations provided resources and other information to families. The distribution site remains San Pablo Park (2800 Park Street, Berkeley). A list of participating partners can be found below.
- **Summary:** The 2021 effort has served 1,110 BUSD students to date, with another 240 school supply kits being reserved for students identified as homeless or otherwise in need throughout the academic year. This is 1,350 students in total.



Above: Volunteers assembling supply kits at 2010 K to College event in UC Berkeley Pauley Ballroom



Above: Families line up to receive school supply kits at the K to College distribution event in Berkeley

- **History:** This is SupplyBank.Org’s oldest event and 12th citywide distribution (11th at San Pablo Park). The program has grown over the years and merged with several other citywide efforts to provide a one-stop back-to-school event for low-income children and families in Berkeley.

Current Sponsors and Volunteer Groups:

- City of Berkeley
- Covenant Church (food boxes)
- Berkeley Public Education Fund
- Junior League Volunteers East Bay,
- BUSD Student Services
- BUSD Information Technology department
- BUSD Admissions Office
- City of Berkeley