

Community Agency RFP Public Hearing Comments/Questions

1/25/24

Public Hearing Communication/Advertisement

- 1st Commenter: Member of Friends of Adeline, NAACP, Healthy Black Families. Part of the Berkeley community for 74 years. Did not feel like public hearing was not promoted enough, suggested flyers should be posted on doors, senior centers, etc. Places where people frequent.
- 2nd Commenter: I appreciate what Ms. Smith said about outreach for this community. And the truth for this community. Accountability for disability accessibly.

Homeless Services:

- 1st Commenter: Homeless services goals for homeless prevention are exemplary. Homeless needs for the elderly and disabled. It is more than just funding. Less bureaucracy. It is about accountability and transparency. Encourage more humanity, accountability, and transparency. Does not feel like homeless individuals are being outreached or provided enough wraparound services. Homeless are getting traumatized. Encourage emphasis on volunteers and “boots on the ground” people in the community. Need more port-a-potties and dumpsters.
- 2nd Commenter: Dorothy Day House (DDH) – workforce development for the kitchen and homeless services. Building shelter/community and workforce under the same categories, Free and fair equitable housing.
- 3rd Commenter: Worked in the homeless services field for decades. I have never come across a city that is willing to hear the operators (DDH). Commend the City of Berkeley to make sure that we have what we need in order to serve the people. We need to reach into the community to make sure that we are reaching the people we serve. We have always hired within the community from folks with lived experiences - happy that the city is looking at workforce development for the people we serve (homeless population).
- 4th Commenter – independent filmmaker and volunteer for DDH. Believes in the work that DDH is doing in the community. The organization continues to expand and find additional ways to help.

- 5th Commenter: Wants more funding for WDDC. Last year we provided 40k lbs. in food to families. 35th year serving women and families in the City of Berkeley. The city was able to provide funds to put families in motels during inclement weather.
- 6th Commenter: Concerned about ADA violations within the City of Berkeley at low-income housing and shelters.

Housing:

- 1st Commenter: Fair housing – the goal is increased knowledge – I don't know if there is enough money for enforcement. Enforcement is the issue.
- 2nd Commenter: Why are we pushing to maximize density? Specifically concerned about accessibility for multifamily affordable housing. Don't create new priorities where there are outstanding issues. Universal design. Black disabled people make up the majority on the streets, in poverty.
- 3rd Commenter: CIL – glad to hear fair housing is a priority. We know that accessibility is important. Accessibility modifications are critical. Unhoused persons with disabilities are really important. Accessible housing and support services for youth people with disabilities.

Labor/Workforce Development

- 1st Commenter: Project Director of Garden Collaborative. Garden sites in the COB. We are so grateful for our two sites and we want to increase our sites and bring gardens to South Berkeley.

General comments:

- 1st Commenter: We need to connect the dots. People have projects, we have a lot to do with workforce and housing. Mental health plays a critical role. Expressed the need of looking at people vs projects. Wondering about communication between HHCS and the teams. People need to be held accountable.

- 2nd Commenter: The money, where it comes from and where it goes. There is a concern in the community about where money goes and how it is serving people. Some is the material cost and some is salaries, some is to consultants, and some is to support staff to run the commissions. Executive and management levels are very expensive. Is this a thing that you and the staff think about? Let's be mindful about where this money is going. Commission oversight is needed and navigators to help older adults in the community to navigate services.

In-person questions:

1. 1st Commenter: Are services provided to families with children under 3 years old?
2. 2nd Commenter: Does City of Berkeley receive \$10million in grants? How much of the money goes to serving people and their needs? How much goes to people who are not providing direct services (staff)?
3. 3rd Commenter: Is there enough money for the enforcement of fair housing? Is there enough money in Measure P for activities? Can providers that receive Measure P funds receive community agency funds?
4. 4th Commenter: How many ADA-accessible beds does the City have?

Online (Zoom) Questions: ANONYMOUS

1. How many ADA-accessible beds does the City currently have?
2. How is the City planning on handling oversight, after the numerous complaints about inaccessibility at both shelters and in low-income housing units?
3. How many complaints has the city received over mold, asbestos, and other habitability problems in very low-income housing in 2023?
4. What are the penalties for service providers who fail to comply with federal and local laws on accessibility?
5. Has the City recouped any findings from projects where residents have been hurt?

6. Is there currently any effort to coordinate with the hub to ensure unhoused people from the community are given the first option for housing within the community that they are from?

7. Why is the City not waiting for the fall 2024 consultant's report about emergency response evacuation times before further maximization of density? When the emergency service providers have already stated that they can't handle current needs and don't see a way to handle increased demands.



February 13, 2024

sent via email

Carole Marasovic
Sadie Mae Palmatier
Denah Bookstein
Paul Kealoha-Blake
Mary Ann Meany
Donnell Jones
Jim Hynes
Homeless Services Panel of Experts
hspe@berkeleyca.gov

Josh Jacobs, Commission Secretary
jjacobs@berkeleyca.gov

Re: February 14, 2024 meeting, Community Agency Funding Process

Dear Panel of Experts,

We are sending this letter as employees of East Bay Community Law Center, the largest provider of free legal services in Alameda County. We work in our Clean Slate unit where we assist unhoused residents in Berkeley, and more broadly, in Alameda County. We appreciate the work the panel is putting into making recommendations to City Council as to the allocation of funding for community agencies that service Berkeley's unhoused residents.

If we understand the agenda packet correctly, the panel is deciding whether to recommend the City Council adopt a budget for FY25 that accepts all the increases asked for in the RFPs submitted to the City, with the variance representing the increase or decrease to the prior fiscal year.

We support additional resources allocated to meeting the needs of Berkeley's unhoused residents. We do, however, feel there are some needed services absent in the proposed budget recommendations that we would like to see funding proposed for in the FY25 budget.

Outreach and Encampment Services

First, we notice that while street outreach and encampment services are eligible programs for funding, they are absent in the proposed budget, and it appears there may not have been any proposals submitted for these services. From our experience working with

unhoused residents, both accessible outreach, sensitive to the specific mental health needs of individuals facing trauma related to homelessness, and also encampment services, such as, but not limited to, showers, cooking facilities, dumpsters and porta-potties are sorely needed.

We recommend that the budget carve out space for accessible outreach services and encampment services, with a second RFP sent out. With the second round of RFPs seeking funding for these unsupported services, we would also recommend City Staff conduct outreach to agencies that might be able to provide such services. We also ask that a more concerted effort be extended to seek such proposals for FY26.

Between now and the next budget proposal, we would also like City Staff to explore funding opportunities and ways in which to allow members of Berkeley's unhoused community to organize to propose their own programs that would provide services to their own communities – perhaps there could be a budget for pilot programs proposed by and run by members of the unhoused community with providers of workforce services providing the training and resources to the community to gain the skills to make it feasible for unhoused residents. While this might not be feasible to allocate resources to in FY25, we would appreciate City Staff be directed to explore how to enable such opportunities for FY26, as such programs would provide unhoused residents with skills and training to succeed in their future endeavors and uplift the unhoused community.

We ask this panel to recommend that council allocate in the budget money for accessible outreach services and encampments services with an RFP sent out for such programs, and that the panel recommend city staff be directed to explore ways in which members of the unhoused community can propose their own pilot programs and be supported in implementing them.

Transparency and Accountability

Second, we note that while agencies are asking for additional funds to support their existing and new programs, these programs continue to run with little oversight and no ability for members of the unhoused community to have grievances heard if their rights are violated or if agencies are not operating as funded, or in a way that meets the needs of the unhoused community.

With the goals of transparency and accountability, we recommend the City adopt measures to audit spending and outcomes of service providers, as well as to provide a means for unhoused residents and other community members to file and resolve grievances against providers of homeless services, including shelters. Without such oversight there is no check on the millions being distributed with the aim of providing services to the unhoused. Further, if a resident has a complaint, their only practical option is to complain directly to the service provider that is harming them. We note that there is precedent in the City of San Francisco for both a process to exist for the filing of shelter



grievances and for there to be oversight over providers of services to the unhoused. (see S.F. Admin Code Sec 20.18, <https://www.sf.gov/report-problem-shelter-sf>, and [https://hsh.sfgov.org/commission-and-committees/#:~:text=The%20Homelessness%20Oversight%20Commission%20\(HOC,Approving%20budgets\)](https://hsh.sfgov.org/commission-and-committees/#:~:text=The%20Homelessness%20Oversight%20Commission%20(HOC,Approving%20budgets))).

We ask this panel to propose staff be directed to draft an ordinance forming an oversight body over providers of homeless services and providing procedures for unhoused residents to file grievances against shelter providers who violate their rights, including but not limited to, terminating them from their programs.

In closing, we appreciate your commitment to Berkeley's unhoused residents and urge you to use your voice to ensure that needed services such as accessible outreach and encampment services are funded and ultimately provided to unhoused residents and that with the budget recommendations, there is also an ask that the City be directed to expend resources on accountability and oversight over homeless services that are slated to receive over 10 million in funding for FY25.

Thank you for your service and consideration of our letter.

Sincerely,

Jael Myrick
Program Director

Sabyl Landrum
Senior Staff Attorney

Brigitte Nicoletti
Staff Attorney

Angelo Sandoval
Staff Attorney

1/23/2024

Community Agency RFP
Heath, Housing & Community Services Department
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

To Whom it May Concern,

Please support the Women's Daytime Drop-In Center (WDDC) and Bridget Transitional House with additional funding during this current funding period. WDDC has provided essential services to unhoused and low income women and families in Berkeley since 1988. As a volunteer and member of the Board of Directors, I have directly witnessed the impact of the organization on the Berkeley community. While low-income residents come to WDDC for resources and housing support, residents of all income levels come to WDDC for a sense of community and purpose.

Last year WDDC provided ~40,000 pounds of free food to community members and housed several families at the Bridget Transitional House. Year over year the organization saw a 23% increase in the number of clients and 50% increase in the number of bags of food distributed. With the expectation these numbers will continue to grow, additional funding during this current period will be vital for WDDC to continue serving the population that calls this organization their "home when there isn't one".

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Palazzo

690 61st St,
Apt A
Oakland, CA 94609

Jacobs, Joshua

From: Community Agency RFP <CommunityAgencyRFP@berkeleyca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:38 AM
To: Vasquez, Jennifer; Anderson, Myette; Andujo-Walker, David
Cc: Rose, Emily
Subject: FW: Community Agency RFP, public comment in support for Dorothy Day House

Internal

Good morning,

Please see the email below:

From: Dan Rademacher <dan.r.rademacher@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2024 4:01 PM
To: Community Agency RFP <CommunityAgencyRFP@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: Community Agency RFP, public comment in support for Dorothy Day House

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong support for Dorothy Day House Berkeley (DDH) in the current Community Agency RFP process, both for the shelters and services DDH already provides and for new funding for workforce development.

I have volunteered for DDH weekly since January 2005, and I have seen the organization grow enormously to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness, all while never losing sight of DDH core values of compassion, service, integrity, and simply treating every person with dignity and respect.

Over the course of the agency's growth in the past 19 years, I have been amazed to see and participate in the evolving culture that has allowed for expanding employment of so many people with lived experience from the unhoused community, while also maintaining and expanding opportunities for housed community members to volunteer as well.

This process of people working alongside each other, together, is a critical part of what makes DDH successful not only as a service provider but also as a direct intervention in the ways that thousands of unhoused people see their own power in the community, and the way that hundreds of housed volunteers think of themselves and their unhoused neighbors. I strongly believe that wherever DDH expands its programs, the benefits include not just the direct services that move people toward permanent housing, but also the friendships and true human connections that develop across the wide range of people, regardless of housing status, who do the work together, day after day.

Thanks for including my experience and perspective in this community process.

Best,
Dan Rademacher

Jacobs, Joshua

From: Community Agency RFP <CommunityAgencyRFP@berkeleyca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 11:40 AM
To: Amaro, Barbara; Babka, Rhianna; Carnegie, Brittany; Cobian, Katie; Andujo-Walker, David; Ernst, Margot; Goldman, Nina; Katz, Mary-Claire; Anderson, Myette; Rose, Emily; Vasquez, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Tonight, Dorothy Day

Internal

Please see email below:

Best Regards,

Cheryl Patterson

Office Specialist II

City of Berkeley – Dept. of Health, Housing, and Community Services

2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
chpatterson@berkeleyca.gov

From: Linda Maio <lindamaio@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Community Agency RFP <CommunityAgencyRFP@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: Tonight, Dorothy Day

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear agency,

I am writing to support Dorothy Day's request for a workforce development program for sheltered persons. In my experience, DD does amazing work with the small amount of funds they receive. We are so lucky to have them. At the very least giving this program a try can reveal just how possible it is to move on to employment and housing with appropriate support and guidance.

Thank you. Linda Maio

Jacobs, Joshua

From: Community Agency RFP <CommunityAgencyRFP@berkeleyca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 2:55 PM
To: Amaro, Barbara; Babka, Rhianna; Carnegie, Brittany; Cobian, Katie; Andujo-Walker, David; Ernst, Margot; Goldman, Nina; Katz, Mary-Claire; Anderson, Myette; Rose, Emily; Vasquez, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Support for the Dorothy Day House re: Fiscal Year 2025 – 2028 Community Agency RFP

Internal

Please see email below:

Best Regards,

Cheryl Patterson

Office Specialist II

City of Berkeley – Dept. of Health, Housing, and Community Services

2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor

Berkeley, CA 94704

chpatterson@berkeleyca.gov

From: Rachel Schwartz <rachel.schwartz@mail.mcgill.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 2:54 PM
To: Community Agency RFP <CommunityAgencyRFP@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: Support for the Dorothy Day House re: Fiscal Year 2025 – 2028 Community Agency RFP

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am reaching out to voice my support for the amazing work taking place at the Dorothy Day House (DDH). I am a Berkeley resident and volunteer for DDH because of how strongly I believe in the high quality, comprehensive services DDH is providing for our unhoused community.

The 2025-2028 funding cycle will be critical for allowing DDH to continue their important work, much of which is currently underfunded or not funded (for example, their outreach work and community meals). I am consistently impressed by how the DDH staff and leadership make great use of their limited resources, and am confident that additional funding support will allow them to increase their services exponentially and sustainably. For example, additional funding support will allow for a workforce development program that can employ people in the shelter, support them in overcoming barriers to employment, and will support success in housing efforts.

I look forward to attending tomorrow's public hearing, and would be pleased to be contacted if I can provide any additional information in support of Dorothy Day House's request for funding support.

Sincerely,

Rachel Schwartz

[Rachel Schwartz, PhD](#)
cell: (415) 302-9915

Jacobs, Joshua

From: Community Agency RFP <CommunityAgencyRFP@berkeleyca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:35 AM
To: Amaro, Barbara; Babka, Rhianna; Carnegie, Brittany; Cobian, Katie; Andujo-Walker, David; Ernst, Margot; Goldman, Nina; Katz, Mary-Claire; Anderson, Myette; Rose, Emily; Vasquez, Jennifer
Subject: FW: In support of the WDDC and their clients...

Internal

Please see email below:

Best Regards,

Cheryl Patterson

Office Specialist II

City of Berkeley – Dept. of Health, Housing, and Community Services

2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
chpatterson@berkeleyca.gov

From: Ian Swinson <iswinson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 2:47 AM
To: Community Agency RFP <CommunityAgencyRFP@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: In support of the WDDC and their clients...

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January 25, 2024

Community Agency RFP
Heath, Housing & Community Services Department
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

To Whom it May Concern,

Please support The Women's Daytime Drop-In Center and Bridget Transitional House with additional funding during this current funding period. WDDC has provided essential services to unhoused and low income women and families in Berkeley since 1988.

Their support comes in many forms and they do the best they can with a limited budget. Here are a few highlights:

**Last year they provided about 40,000 pounds of free food and many hours of housing assessments and referrals, counseling and other vital services to those who need it most.*

**This trauma-informed agency provides women and families with a safe place to receive their mail, to receive notifications of housing availability, shelter openings and support from an engaged staff and volunteers to navigate the homeless service system as they move toward housing stability.*

**This last year WDDC provided free parenting workshops for five unhoused families to Help them to better understand their experience of being parented and to develop tools to use to help their children during times of housing instability. Funded by UCSF Benioff/Children's Hospital and partnering with BANANAS, the program was provided to five families with grocery gift card incentives, complimentary lunch and continued support after the programs.*

**WDDC staff work with several hundred families each year connecting them to essential benefits, and assisting them to develop a Housing Problem Solving Plan that uniquely fits their needs. City of Berkeley and County of Alameda programs connect our families to emergency shelter or subsidized housing and other health related services as resources are made available.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ian Swinson

758 Colusa Ave
Berkeley, CA 94707

Board Member (previously the President) of the WDDC and a concerned neighbor and humanitarian

January 25, 2024

Community Agency RFP
Heath, Housing & Community Services Department
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

To Whom it May Concern,

Please support The Women's Daytime Drop-In Center and Bridget Transitional House with additional funding during this current funding period. WDDC has provided essential services to unhoused and low income women and families in Berkeley since 1988.

As is critical for serving homeless individuals and families, WDDC provides trauma-informed services that include a safe place to receive mail, notifications of housing availability and shelter openings, and compassionate support from an engaged staff and volunteers to navigate the homeless service system as they move toward stability. After thirty years working with nonprofit and public sector human service organizations, it is an honor to serve on the WDDC Board, where I am continually impressed with the high quality and deep compassion reflected in the Center's services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Carnochan
1125 Portal Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

WDDC Board Member

1/24/2024

Community Agency RFP
Health, Housing & Community Services Department
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter to encourage your support for the Women's Daytime Drop-In Center (WDDC) and Bridget Transitional House. Additional funding during this current funding period will enable WDDC to continue to provide essential services to unhoused and low income women and families in Berkeley, as it has done since 1988.

As a volunteer at WDDC since 2018, I have witnessed the impact of their work providing vital services to families in the midst of food and housing instability. Approximately 40,000 pounds of food were given out free last year - both in the form of hot nourishing meals and as necessary groceries. I've personally heard the relief and gratitude of women as they receive the food they otherwise could not afford to provide for their families.

In regards to housing, WDDC staff work with several hundred families each year, assisting with housing assessments and referrals, notifications of housing availability, shelter openings, and assisting families in the development of "Housing Problem Solving Plan" to fit their unique needs. It's a heart-warming sight to see the joy in the eyes of newly-housed families. Working with City of Berkeley and County of Alameda programs, women and families are also connected to emergency shelters and to subsidized housing, as well as other health related services.

In addition to food and housing, WDDC provides other varied services. Last year, WDDC provided free parenting workshops for five unhoused families, assisting their understanding of their own families of origin, and how to better support their children in the midst of housing instability. Funded by UCSF Benioff/Children's Hospital, and partnering with BANANAS, ongoing support continues for these families. Also, the center daily provides families with a safe place to receive their mail, hygiene products, dry socks and often a warm jacket.

The need for WDDC's services continues to grow; in the last four years the number of clients (women and children!) served has increased by 23%. During these days of markedly rising cost of food, the number of food bags distributed has increased by 50%. Families' housing and food stability are paramount at WDDC, and additional funding will be vital for the important work to continue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Fran Sheppard (WDDC volunteer, and retired public school teacher)
1832 Vine St
Berkeley, CA 94703

January 25, 2024

Community Agency RFP

Heath, Housing & Community Services Department

2180 Milvia Street

Berkeley, CA 94704

To Whom it May Concern,

Please support The Women's Daytime Drop-In Center and Bridget Transitional House with additional resources during this current funding period.

I have been a volunteer at the WDDC center since 2019 and began serving as a board member in 2020. I have seen firsthand the amazing work they do – for both their clients and the local community.

WDDC has provided essential services to unhoused and low-income women and families in Berkeley since 1988.

Last year they distributed approximately 40,000 pounds of free food and many hours of housing assessments and referrals, counseling and other vital services to those who need it most.

The WDDC provides women and families with a safe place to get their mail, allowing them to receive notifications of housing availability and shelter openings. Coupled with an engaged staff and volunteers, these folks are better able to navigate the homeless service system as they move toward stability.

Funding during this current period is critical so that the WDDC can continue their work.

I appreciate your consideration, thank you.

Sincerely,

Lidia Sadoun

5210 Fleming Avenue

Oakland, CA 94619