



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 28, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Scott Gilman, Health, Housing, and Community Services Director

Subject: Contract: Berkeley Food Network for Food Assistance: HOME-ARP Supportive Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to execute a new contract with Berkeley Food Network (BFN) to provide food security services to eligible populations utilizing HOME Investment Partnership American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP) funds for a total amount not to exceed \$372,900.80 for a two-year contract ending on June 30, 2028.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The funding for this contract is fully funded with HOME-ARP funds. There is no impact on the general fund.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

HOME-ARP funds were awarded to the City of Berkeley by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2021 in the amount of \$2,735,696. Per the HOME-ARP allocation plan adopted by the City Council on March 21, 2023, funds under this grant are to be used for Supportive Services to support Qualifying Populations as defined by the HUD regulations. An eligible activity under the Supportive Services category includes food distribution. On April 14, 2026, City Council approved the release of the Food Assistance: HOME-ARP Supportive Services Request for Proposal (RFP) in the amount of \$372,900.80 to solicit applications from community-based organizations. The application period was open between April 21, 2026, and May 28, 2026. Three applications were submitted and met minimum criteria for review by the scoring panel. After careful review using established scoring criteria, Berkeley Food Network received the highest total score and staff recommend awarding the contract.

Under this contract, Berkeley Food Network will provide food distribution services to HUD-defined Qualifying Populations for a two-year period starting in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 and ending by June 30, 2028. The contract amount is not to exceed \$186,450.40 for FY 2027 and \$186,450.40 for FY 2028 for a total of \$372,900.80.

Effective January 1, 2026, local agencies are required to satisfy noticing requirements for certain contracts for services that meet the criteria outlined in Government Code Section 3504.1 as amended by AB 339. This project does not meet the criteria in Government Code Section 3504.1 and is exempt from the noticing requirement.

BACKGROUND

During the COVID-19 pandemic HUD distributed emergency funding to support local communities with housing and community services. As an entitlement jurisdiction, the City of Berkeley received \$2,735,696 in HOME-ARP funds in FY 2022. To access and distribute the funds, the City was required to submit a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan describing which services would be provided. In FY 2023, City staff conducted public participation with residents, commissioners, and community agencies via surveys and public hearings to solicit direct community feedback on how to spend the funds. Through this process, Supportive Services, a HUD-defined category of eligible activities, was determined as the sole service to be provided. Under Supportive Services, the City or sub-contracted community agencies can provide an array of services, including but not limited to housing navigation, legal support, childcare, food distribution to individuals who meet the eligible populations (homeless, at risk of homeless, fleeing domestic violence). The City Council adopted the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for submission to HUD on March 21, 2023. In FY 2024 the Community Agency Request for Proposal (RFP) made HOME-ARP funding available for interested community agencies. Under that RFP, Eviction Defense Center was awarded \$547,139 per year for four years to provide eviction support services. By the end of the first year of the contract (FY 2025), there were unspent funds remaining on the contract. City Council authorized the recapture of these funds and to re-release under a new RFP to provide food distribution services on June 24, 2025 (Resolution 71,861- N.S.).

As a result of the food distribution RFP, Berkeley Food Network (BFN) received the highest score during the review period and staff recommend to award BFN the contract.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no environmentally related impacts to awarding this contract.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Berkeley Food Network provides essential food services to the Berkeley community. They are recommended for funding based on their application materials and demonstration of their ability to serve the HOME-ARP eligible population.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The Council may choose not to award this contract. However, doing so may require the City to return the HOME-ARP funds to HUD or risk being in non-compliance with grant requirements.

CONTACT PERSON

Kat Larowe, Community Services Specialist III, HHCS, (510) 981-7555

Contract: Berkeley Food Network for Food Assistance:
HOME-ARP Supportive Services

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Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: BERKELEY FOOD NETWORK – HOME-ARP SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is an entitlement jurisdiction which receives annual allocations of HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the City of Berkeley received \$2,735,696.00 in HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) funds; and

WHEREAS, the City released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit community-based organizations providing food distribution services under the HOME-ARP regulations in the amount of \$372,900.80; and

WHEREAS, three community-based organizations applied by the RFP deadline of May 28, 2026 and met the minimum eligibility; and

WHEREAS, applications were reviewed and scored using the same evaluation criteria; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that Berkeley Food Network is highly qualified to provide food distribution services under the HOME-ARP program, and

WHEREAS, this contract is exempt from the noticing requirements set forth in Government Code Section 3504.1.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to execute a new Contract with Berkeley Food Network (BFN) to provide food security services to eligible populations utilizing HOME Investment Partnership American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP) funds for a total amount not to exceed \$372,900.80 for a two-year contract ending on June 30, 2028.