



Office of the City Manager

07

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 24, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Kelly Wallace, Interim Director, Health, Housing & Community Services Department

Subject: Contract No. 31900273 Amendment: Bay Area Community Services (BACS) to Add Funds for Housing Problem-Solving

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract amendment to add \$300,000 to the existing four year (FY20-23) contract with Bay Area Community Services (BACS) for Coordinated Entry System operations, for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$6,880,149. These funds will be used as flexible funding for people experiencing homelessness and presenting at the North County Housing Resource Center.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Approving this recommendation would allow the City to execute an amendment to an existing contract with Bay Area Community Services (Contract No. 31900273, CMS No. TC6QD) in the Housing and Community Services Division of the HHCS Department adding \$300,000 in Measure U1 funds for a total not-to-exceed (NTE) amount of \$6,880,149. Staff have identified \$100,000 in unspent Measure U1 funds that were allocated with the FY18-19 Biennial Budget Adoption on June 27, 2017 (Resolution No. 68,075-N.S.) and \$200,000 in funds allocated with the FY20-21 Biennial Budget Adoption on June 25, 2019 (Resolution No. 69,010-N.S.), both for creating a Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool. Funds will be placed in ERMA code 011-51-504-535-5001-000-444-612990.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In closing the financial books for Fiscal Year 2019, staff identified \$100,000 in unspent general funds from Measure U1.. These funds had been allocated as part of a broader “anti-displacement” package of \$650,000 in the FY18-19 Biennial Budget (\$300,000 for eviction defense, \$250,000 for housing retention, and \$100,000 for rapid rehousing). Similarly, an additional \$200,000 in Measure U1 general funds was allocated for Flexible Housing Subsidies in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 with the FY20-21 Biennial Budget, also for a Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool.

To utilize these funds efficiently and in a manner consistent with the original intention of the Council allocation, staff are proposing that the \$300,000 in total funds be added to the North County Housing Resource Center (HRC)'s budget, operated by BACS. If included as part of the North County's broader Coordinated Entry System, which centralizes all housing-crisis resources in a single point of entry, they can be allocated to persons for whom an assessment has determined the funds will best meet their needs in light of all other possible sources of assistance. The Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool can be used for everything from one-time expenses (such as arrears assistance) to multiple months of partial rent subsidy.

BACKGROUND

On June 27, 2017, Council passed Resolution No. 68,075-N.S., adopting a Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. As part of the action taken that night, Council allocated \$650,000 to displacement efforts: \$300,000 for eviction defense; \$250,000 for retention; \$100,000 for rapid rehousing. In closing the books on FY19, staff recently discovered that the \$100,000 in rapid rehousing funding had not been encumbered.

On June 25, 2019, Council passed Resolution No. 69,010-N.S., adopting a Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2020-2021, similarly allocating \$900,000 each year in FY20 and FY21 to anti-displacement. This includes \$100,000 for a Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool in each fiscal year, for a total of \$200,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Approving this recommendation would have the effect of improving housing stability for some housed residents currently at risk of street homelessness, thereby reducing the any environmental impacts associated with unsheltered homelessness.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Coordinated Entry is a system designed to assess people experiencing a housing crisis for their specific needs, and quickly refer and link them to a number of possible interventions that can materially assist them with resolving their crisis. A Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool, by its very name intended to be flexible, is best situated within this system, as its use can be considered in light of all other possible interventions for a person (maximizing efficiency) and can be as flexible as possible in the event other interventions are unavailable or infeasible (maximizing effectiveness).

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Staff did not utilize \$100,000 of the Measure U1 general funds that had been allocated during the FY18 or FY19 Budget years. Therefore, Council could re-allocate these unspent funds for other purposes. Council could similarly decide to allocate the total amount of the funds (\$300,000) to another agency, or direct staff to circulate an RFP for competitive bidding for their use.

CONTACT PERSON

Peter Radu, Homeless Services Coordinator, HHCS, (510) 981-5435.

Attachments:
1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT NO. 31900273 AMENDMENT: BAY AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES
(BACS) TO ADD FUNDS FOR HOUSING PROBLEM-SOLVING

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council is committed to addressing the root cause of homelessness by preventing at-risk residents from losing their housing wherever possible; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, on June 27, 2017, voted to allocate \$100,000 in Measure U1 funds for a Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool as part of a broader displacement allocation; and

WHEREAS, staff identified that this funding had not yet been encumbered as of the close of Fiscal Year 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, on June 25, 2019, voted to allocate an additional \$200,000 in Measure U1 funds for a Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool as part of its displacement allocation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley, in partnership with Alameda County, operates a Coordinated Entry System at its Housing Resource Center, where all residents of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville experiencing a housing crisis can be assessed for their needs and linked to an intervention that is appropriate for their circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this \$300,000 in funding can be efficiently utilized within a broader Coordinated Entry context and accessed by people experiencing homelessness in the North County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute an amendment to Contract No. 31900273 (CMS # TC6QD) with Bay Area Community Services (BACS), for an amount not-to-exceed \$6,880,149. A signed copy of said documents, agreements, and any amendments will be kept on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this \$300,000 in added funding shall be used for flexible financial assistance for people in the North County who are experiencing homelessness.