

CONSENT CALENDAR

November 30, 2021

To: Members of the City Council  
From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín (Author) and Councilmember Wengraf (Co-Sponsor)  
Subject: Budget Referral: Berkeley Age-Friendly Continuum

RECOMMENDATION

Refer \$20,000 to the November 2021 Annual Appropriations Ordinance #1 process for the Berkeley Age-Friendly Continuum.

BACKGROUND

The goal of the Berkeley Continuum is to implement an integrated, replicable and citywide continuum of services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities as they navigate the transitions of aging. The Age-Friendly Berkeley Action Plan was published in December 2018, and is the culmination of several years of community and stakeholder input. Staff and community partners are now working to implement the plan. An internal cross-department steering committee has been appointed for the City and the Community Partners Team is also meeting. In 2019, the City of Berkeley was awarded the SCAN Foundation Innovation Award for the State of California for the Continuum's approach to preparing Berkeley for growth in the older population and for people with disabilities.

There are several programs that have been and are in the process of being implemented as a part of the Age-Friendly Continuum:

- The Gateway Program, a prevention/intervention program that helps older adults proactively plan for their aging experience. Three seniors from the community have been trained and are doing well with the visits. An evaluation has been completed and the coming year will focus on how to move this to a sustainable future.
- The project to create a senior portal for easy access to information is in contract with the county vendor and includes collaboration with the county, the Area Agency on Aging, the Berkeley Libraries and the Senior Center.
- The model service linked senior housing/community center project has left the gate and will continue to be developed over the next few years, and the Berkeley Home Match pilot with the University has met its targets and will continue.
- ....and several other projects are in process.

One of the four priority areas in the Age-Friendly Continuum is health and wellness. COVID-19 continues to be of great concern since it first arrived in the United States in

early 2020. This virus is significantly deadlier to seniors, especially those of a more advanced age and/or with preexisting conditions. Approximately two thirds of deaths in Alameda County from COVID-19 were from residents over 70 years old. Thanks in part to Berkeley's aging services programs, we have been able to vaccinate almost all seniors over the past year. Beyond the health impacts of COVID-19, it also has had an economic and social impacts, in addition to limiting transportation options, which round up the other priority areas of the Age-Friendly Continuum. Continued funding of this program will allow us to further refine our approach to assisting the senior community during these difficult and unprecedented times. Last year, the City Council voted to allocate \$20,000 to the Age-Friendly Continuum during the FY21 budget update.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$20,000 from General Fund Excess Equity.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Berkeley Age-Friendly Continuum aims to improve the quality of life and the health and well-being of older adults

CONTACT PERSON

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