



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 29, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Scott Gilman, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services  
 Subject: Contract: Berkeley Food Network for Berkeley-Based Food Assistance

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute a contract and any amendments or extensions with Berkeley Food Network to provide food assistance to low-income households in Berkeley in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for the period December 2, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, staff have selected Berkeley Food Network to provide food assistance to low income Berkeley residents. This RFP process was initiated by a referral from Council on June 25, 2024 to identify a Berkeley-based vendor to provide food assistance to food insecure households. The City conducted an RFP process and received three proposals. Berkeley Food Network was selected as the highest scoring bidder, and submitted a revised quote with final pricing. The contract will have a total not to exceed amount of \$400,000. Funding is available in the FY 2024 budget in the Aging Services General Fund (Fund 011).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On June 25, 2024, Council voted to refer to the City Manager to develop and fund a Request for Proposal process to support Berkeley-based food non-profit food assistance providers serving food insecure households.

The Oakland-based Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB), which partners with more than 400 institutions to provide food assistance to Alameda County families and individuals, reports an increase in demand throughout the county. The ACCFB went from distributing 38 million pounds of food pre-COVID pandemic, to 58 million pounds of food most recently.<sup>1</sup> As of October 30, 2023, approximately 8.9 percent of Alameda County adults, lived in households experiencing food insufficiency.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Alameda County Community Food Bank: <https://www.accfb.org/about-us/what-we-do/>

<sup>2</sup> California Pulse Website for Alameda County: <https://stanford-datalab.github.io/covid-19-ca/alameda/#foodinsufficiency>

BACKGROUND

The City released an RFP under Specification No. 25-11675-C and convened a panel of stakeholders to select Berkeley Food Network as the most responsive and responsible bidder for this contract.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Berkeley Food Network is a well-respected Berkeley-based non-profit food provider with demonstrated expertise on food distribution to low-income residents and households. Their proposal in response to RFP Specification No. 25-11675-C includes high quality services that aligns with the intended goals of maximizing program objectives.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Staff did not identify an alternative action consistent with the City's goals of advancing equity in the community. Failure to proceed with the recommendation would result in a local provider's inability to sustain, and effectively grow, their food distribution operations in order to meet the community's need for healthy and accessible food.

CONTACT PERSON

Tanya Bustamante, Interim Deputy Director, HHCS, 510-981-5178

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT: BERKELEY FOOD NETWORK FOR BERKELEY-BASED FOOD ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2024, City Council voted to refer to the City Manager to develop and fund a Request for Proposal process to support Berkeley-based food non-profit food assistance providers serving food insecure households; and

WHEREAS, the City released an RFP under Specification No. 25-11675-C and convened a panel of stakeholders to review proposals and pricing from Berkeley-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Food Network was selected by the City's RFP selection process; and

WHEREAS, funding is subject to appropriation in the FY 2025 and FY 2026 budgets in the Aging Services General Fund (Fund 011).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or his designee is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments, with Berkeley Food Network to provide food assistance to low-income residents and households in Berkeley, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for the period December 2, 2024 thru June 30, 2026. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the City Clerk Department.

