



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR
October 29, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Tanya Bustamante, Interim Deputy Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services Department

Subject: Companion Report: Achieving Goals of 2018 Berkeley Age-Friendly Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to review and prioritize the recommendations of the City of Berkeley's Age-Friendly Action Plan, in conjunction with the results of the Community Health Assessment that will be conducted by the Health, Housing, and Community Services Department in the 2024 calendar year. In addition, to consider the following referrals:

1. Refer to the Transportation Commission to collaborate with the Commission on Aging to assess the equitable accessibility of public transportation options for the older adult and disabled community in Berkeley
2. Refer to Housing Advisory Commission to collaborate with staff to assess the level of affordable, accessible housing options for older adults to age in the Berkeley community.
3. Refer the Commission on Aging's request for increased funding to the Budget and Finance Policy Committees for further deliberation.

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On September 17, 2024, the Budget & Finance Committee adopted the following action: M/S/C (Arreguin/Hahn) to refer the item from the Commission and the City Manager Companion Report item to the City Council with a qualified positive recommendation to consider sending both items to the City Manager for evaluation of the age-friendly action plan and the provision of recommendations. Vote: All Ayes.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this recommendation.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Commission on Aging has requested that the City Manager take steps to act on the recommendations of Berkeley's Age-Friendly Action Plan, and address gaps by increasing funding for personnel and other services provided by the City. The City Manager does not disagree with the potential merit of this request, but rather recommends that Council consider a more specific and streamlined recommendation that encourages relevant commissions and staff to work together to outline feasible and realistic options that are evidence-based and community-driven.

BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting on February 21, 2024, the Commission on Aging voted to recommend to Council to refer to the City Manager steps to develop plans to revisit and act on the recommendations in the Berkeley Age-Friendly Action Plan by building on what is already occurring in the community, expanding the Plan's impact, and addressing gaps, by increasing funding for personnel and other services currently being offered as well as others identified in the Age-Friendly Plan.

M/S/C: Chisholm, Cochran, Collins, Evans, Lavault, Orrick, Porter, Smith, Yamaguchi.

Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

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

The Aging Services Division of the City's Health, Housing, and Community Services Department provides a wealth of services to Berkeley's older adult community, including senior center classes and activities, food and nutrition services, transportation services, and case management for high need older adults with complex needs. Given that the older adult population is the fastest growing segment of the population in the United States¹, it is prudent to clearly and thoughtfully assess the current needs of this population alongside the gaps and strengths that the results of the upcoming Community Health Assessment will highlight, and the thoughtful planning and deliberation of relevant commissions and staff.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Council could refer this request directly to the budget process.

CONTACT PERSON

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¹ <https://www.census.gov>