



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 22, 2025

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: Reallocation of FY 2025 Youth Resiliency Funding

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or designee to reallocate Youth Equity Partnership (YEP) funds awarded through the FY 2025 - 2028 community agency contracting process to the Berkeley Public Schools Fund, Contract No. 32500058, and amend the Schools Fund's existing contract as follows:

- Remove the Black Girls United (BGU) program from the contract (at the contractor's request).
- Reallocate \$20,000 of the BGU funding to the Longfellow Identity Affirming Programs (LIAP) for FY 2026 through FY 2028, increasing their total annual allocation from \$25,300 to \$45,300.
- Return the remaining \$27,817 initially awarded to BGU, annually, to the General Fund for FY 2026 - 2028.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Contract #32500058 for the Berkeley Public Schools Fund is part of the Berkeley Youth Equity Partnership's (YEP) Healthy, Connected, and Resilient portfolio. The Schools Fund acts as a fiscal intermediary for these youth programs. The funds are designated to promote the mental health, well-being, and sense of belonging of African American/Black and Latinx young people in Berkeley.

BGU's Manager advised the City that the program is changing strategies, making it no longer eligible for fiscal sponsorship from the Schools Fund or for funding from YEP. This recommendation would shift \$20,000 per year in funding from FY 2026 through FY 2028 within the City's existing contract with the Schools Fund, moving funds from BGU to LIAP. Staff determined that this reallocation is consistent with the terms of the FY 2025 RFP, because this shift would occur within an existing contract (with the Schools Fund) and would remain under the same YEP priority (Healthy, Connected, and Resilient) as originally awarded by Council.

If approved, the total not-to-exceed amount of the Schools Fund contract would decrease by \$83,451 (from \$292,468 to \$209,017). This \$83,451 represents the total funds removed from the Black Girls United program's allocation for FY 2026 through FY 2028 that will be returned to the General Fund.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On June 25, 2024, the Berkeley City Council adopted the FY 2025 budget, which included authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute a contract with the Berkeley Public Schools Fund for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$292,468 (\$73,117 per year for FY 2025 through FY 2028) to fund two new programs: BGU and LIAP.

In its first year with YEP funding, BGU struggled to build its administrative capacity, maintain staffing, and meet enrollment/participation goals. In May 2025, YEP received notification from the BGU Manager that its leadership decided to shift its programmatic focus away from in-school programming. BGU subsequently requested to conclude participation in the current grant after FY 2025.

During the first half of FY 2025, LIAP served 165 Black and Brown middle school students. Approximately 77% (127 students) of these participants were Latinx, and 23% (38 students) were African American/Black.

LIAP's Raza Youth Consilio (RYCO) component includes a biweekly community-building group focused on students of Latinx heritage, though the curriculum is relevant to participants of all racial/ethnic backgrounds. RYCO engages youth in assets-based identity-awareness activities, focusing on beliefs, values, purpose, assets, cultural roots, and family interaction. A subset of RYCO's students comprise a leadership team that meets bi-weekly to plan and support the larger group sessions.

The second component, Young MENtors, provides intervention services specifically designed for boys of color. LIAP's RJ Counselor works with a team of Longfellow teachers and leaders to provide group and one-on-one support for 45 high-need students in areas including attendance, emotional regulation, and academics.

In its FY 2025 proposal to the City, LIAP requested a modest budget of \$25,300. As first-time applicants for YEP funding, the Schools Fund and LIAP staff did not fully anticipate the time and staff expertise needed to collect service measures and outcomes, and to track attendance and budgets, as required of all YEP grant recipients. The program is also growing quickly, with 18% more participants than anticipated in FY 2025. As a result, LIAP has had to spread its YEP funding thinly across participants.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

A key finding of Berkeley Unified School District's (BUSD) Mental Health Needs Assessment 2023[1] was that "...families of color resoundingly shared that services and supports have not been focused toward honoring the diversity of student backgrounds

and experiences; as a result, a culture of exclusion and inequity persists.” The assessment recommended “[a] focused approach...[to address] racial disparities experienced by students and families...”

The YEP funding awarded to the Schools Fund supports this recommended approach by investing in programs and services that promote resiliency, positive cultural identity, and belonging. With BGU stepping away from this contract, the City has an opportunity to bolster its sister program, LIAP, by providing additional funding. This will allow LIAP to build its administrative capacity and maintain program quality in the face of growing enrollment. The increase in funding will help ensure that African American/Black and Latinx students at Longfellow Middle School continue to experience the benefits of this program: stronger cultural identity, increased connectedness, and greater resiliency.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Staff consulted with the Schools Fund to try to identify a solution that would enable BGU to continue to receive YEP funding. BGU opted to end their participation in the contract. Staff considered the benefits of the City retaining the full balance of the BGU award to help address its deficit. Staff balanced this option with the City’s commitment to support vulnerable populations, including those impacted by recent federal immigration policies and practices. Particularly in light of these policy changes, LIAP plays an important role by providing Latinx middle schoolers and their families with a counterbalance to and refuge from the negative messaging and actions occurring across the country.

If it is not awarded the proposed additional funding, LIAP would need to divert a portion of its current grant award to support the program’s administration. This shift would result in the need to dilute program services and/or to turn away participants. In contrast, increasing LIAP’s allocation by \$20,000 per year for FY 2026 – FY 2028 would enable LIAP to support a fast-growing participant pool and to build infrastructure to collect participant information, track expenditures, and document program impacts.

Given these considerations, staff recommends that \$47,817 in funding originally awarded to support the BGU program be reallocated in FY 2026 – 2028 to increase LIAP’s annual funding by \$20,000 (from \$25,300 to \$45,300) and the remaining \$27,817 per year be returned to General Fund for FY 2026 – 2028.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:
1: Resolution

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

REALLOCATION OF FY 2025 YOUTH RESILIENCY FUNDING

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2024, City Council approved Berkeley's FY 2025-2028 community agency contracts as part of the FY 2025 budget; and

WHEREAS, the approved budget included an annual allocation of \$73,117 in General Funds for FY 2025 thru FY 2028 to the Berkeley Public Schools Fund, fiscal sponsor for Black Girls United (\$47,817/year) and Longfellow Identity Affirming Programs (\$25,300) for a total not to exceed amount of \$292,468 under Contract #32500058; and

WHEREAS, both programs were awarded funding to advance the Youth Equity Partnership's Healthy, Connected and Resilient priority; and

WHEREAS, in May 2025, Black Girls United notified the Youth Equity Partnership that it was changing its programmatic approach and had decided to withdraw from its YEP funding award effective the end of FY 2025; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Public Schools Fund's other sponsored program, Longfellow Identity Affirming Programs, experienced enrollment growth in FY 2025 and recognized that its contract required administrative obligations beyond what had been budgeted; and

WHEREAS, reallocating \$20,000 annually in funding from Black Girls United to Longfellow Identity Affirming Programs (within the Berkeley Public Schools Fund Contract #32500058) would help strengthen the administrative infrastructure of Longfellow Identity Affirming Programs; and

WHEREAS, the remaining funds in the amount of \$83,451 (\$27,817/year in FY 2026, FY 2027, and FY 2028) would be reabsorbed by the City's Fund 011 General Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or designee is authorized to amend its contract with the Berkeley Public Schools Fund, Contract #32500058, as follows: reallocate \$20,000 annually of funding awarded to the Berkeley Public Schools Fund as fiscal sponsor from Black Girls United to the Longfellow Identity Affirming Programs (increasing Longfellow Identity Affirming Programs' annual budget from \$25,300 to \$45,300 for FY 2026 thru FY 2028); return \$27,817 annually to General Funds for FY 2026 thru FY 2028; and reduce Berkeley Public Schools Fund's FY 2025 – 2028 funding by \$83,451 (from \$292,468 to \$209,017). A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments shall be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

