



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 9, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
 Submitted by: Tasha Tervalon, Assistant to the City Manger
 Subject: Contract: African American/Black Professional Community Network for Project Sankofa

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with African American/Black Professional Community Network (AABPN) with Healthy Black Families as the fiscal sponsor for the African American Holistic Resource Center, Project Sankofa, which will be funded through the State of California Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Supports funds, for a not to exceed amount of \$300,000, through June 30, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding in the amount of \$300,000 provided from the State of California Mental Health Services Act Fund 315 is available in the Adopted FY26 budget.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Per the City Council approved Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY24-FY26 Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan, funding in the amount of \$300,000 was allocated to support the African American Holistic Resource Center (AAHRC), Project Sankofa. The AABPN is the community organization that will implement Project Sankofa, which will provide the following with this funding:

- Culturally relevant consultation and outreach in Berkeley schools and youth programs with a goal of 50 students receiving at least 2 sessions.
- Training & Capacity Building providing culturally grounded sessions for youth, caregivers, and educators that will deliver monthly training to a group of 20 youth.
- Digital Media Campaign & Civic Engagement for Youth to shift perceptions on mental health through relevant social media and an online magazine. Three (3) youth and young adult interns will be tasked to create bi-weekly posts, 1 virtual town hall and additional online articles.

- Healing Circles & Forums providing community healing spaces with meals, storytelling, and resource-sharing that will deliver community-based healing spaces with meals, storytelling, and resource-sharing including an in-person Juneteenth event and online forum for Black History month.
- Community Print & Digital Distribution providing the development of culturally specific wellness materials for the community with input from the youth. Flyers, brochures, and a website for the community with dedicated input and engagement from youth will be developed and made available.

Project Sankofa will leverage community partnerships to assist with implementation, training, content development, and direct community engagement. These partners include Berkeley City College Wellness Program, Association of Black Psychologists, National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW), Local Universities and Community Colleges, Faith-based networks and clergy, and Parent-teacher associations and community elders. The City has designated Healthy Black Families, a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, as the fiscal sponsor of Project Sankofa. In this role, Healthy Black Families will oversee the financial operations and fiduciary administrative tasks for this project. The project will be managed through the City Manager's Office.

BACKGROUND

The State of California provides MHSA funding for local mental health services and supports. One of the annually occurring MHSA funding components is Community Services & Supports (CSS). MHSA CSS funds are primarily to be utilized for treatment services and supports for Severely Mentally Ill Adults and Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children and Youth, and for general system development.

To utilize MHSA funds, stakeholder informed Three Year Plans and Annual Updates that outline how funds are to be utilized are required to be developed and locally approved. Per Resolution No. 70,990-N.S., the City Council approved the MHSA FY24-FY26 Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan, which allocated funding for the AAHRC Project Sankofa.

The AAHRC will be a state-of-the-art resource center where culturally congruent services will be provided for African Americans to obtain the support they need to decrease inequities and disparities and build community. The AAHRC will be comprised of various service components. Project Sankofa is one of the services that is being introduced before the official opening of the AAHRC in Berkeley.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this project.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The execution of this contract will ensure that once opened, the AAHRC will be home to new mental health and wellness services for the African American community in Berkeley.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

As funding for the AAHRC Project Sankofa was included in the City Council approved MHSA FY24-26 Three Year Plan, and Healthy Black Families has been designated as the fiscal sponsor of this project, there were no other alternative actions considered.

CONTACT PERSON

Tasha Tervalon, Assistant to the City Manager, (510) 981-5347

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT: AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY
NETWORK FOR PROJECT SANKOFA

WHEREAS, the City's Department of Health, Housing and Community Services, Mental Health Division, receives Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Supports (CSS) funding on an annual basis to provide services and supports for Severely Mentally Ill Adults and Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children and Youth, and for general system development; and

WHEREAS, in order to utilize MHSA CSS Funds, the Mental Health Division must have a stakeholder informed, locally approved Three Year Plan or Annual Update outlining how funds will be allocated in place; and

WHEREAS, per Resolution No. 70,990-N.S., City Council approved the MHSA FY24-FY26 Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved MHSA FY24-FY26 Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan included funding for the African American Holistic Resource Center for the City to work with the African American/Black Professional Community Network to implement Project Sankofa; and

WHEREAS, Project Sankofa will provide mental health and wellness services, workshops, healing circles, community engagement activities, and an online social media campaign for African Americans in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the African American Holistic Resource Center community-led steering committee has designated Healthy Black Families as the fiscal sponsor for Project Sankofa; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager's Office will execute and monitor this contract; and

WHEREAS, funding in the amount of \$300,000 is available in the Adopted FY26 Budget in the Mental Health Services Act Fund 315; and

WHEREAS, MHSA CSS funds in the amount of \$300,000 will be transferred to the City Manager's Office to execute and provide oversight of this contract.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or designee is hereby authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with African American/Black Professional Community Network (AABPN) with Healthy Black Families, as the fiscal sponsor of the African American Holistic Resource Center's Project Sankofa, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$300,000 through June 30, 2026.