



Office of the City Manager

November 6, 2023

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Attached is the combined City of Berkeley Request for Proposals (RFP) for Community Agency funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP), Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP), and City of Berkeley local funds including, City General Fund (GF), E and Measure U1 programs.

Please note that this RFP covers four-year funding for fiscal years (FY) 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028 (the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028). The final FY 2025 amounts of funding available will be identified during the City's budget process. Funds are not guaranteed for the subsequent years (FY 2025-2028) and will be annually reassessed based on the availability of funds and other factors such as contract performance.

The attached RFP includes estimated amounts of funding available based on the FY 2024 adopted budget for community agency funding. The City's FY 2024 local fund allocation for community agency contracts was over \$7.2 million. Availability of local funds for FY 2025 to FY 2028 have yet to be finalized and will occur during the City's biennial FY 2025-2026 budget process. Additionally, the City does not yet know its CDBG, ESG, and CSBG allocations, which are dependent on the federal government's financial situation and annual allocation to the City of Berkeley. The CSBG and HHAP State of California award amounts are also estimates at the time of this RFP release. This is a competitive solicitation; therefore, continued funding is not guaranteed.

The City reserves the right to select the appropriate funding source for each proposal being considered for funding. The City also reserves the right to engage in negotiations with the applicant on its scope of service, taking into consideration various funding streams and amounts available, as well as priorities for service delivery.

The RFP briefly describes the purpose and eligibility under the various funding categories. **Staff is holding an online workshop for all prospective applicants on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Please refer to the RFP Overview for information about funding sources and eligibility criteria. In general, priority for funding will be given to projects that are consistent with the City's established priorities and goals, and have demonstrated success in achieving measurable results and address the needs of residents living at 80% of area median

income or below, but priority will be given to agencies that serve clients at or below the federal poverty level.

All proposals must contain quantifiable outcomes; please refer to the required service measures and outcomes contained in the application that are dependent on the type of service that your agency proposes to deliver.

This RFP continues to emphasize City priorities including: Berkeley Youth Equity Partnership (formerly Berkeley 2020 Vision), coordinated access to homeless services, workforce development, and fair housing services. This RFP also includes City of Berkeley Measure E funding to provide emergency attendant, transportation, and wheelchair repair services to Berkeley residents with severe physical disabilities.

When evaluating funding proposals, serious consideration will be given to the following factors:

- Providing services to residents of Berkeley living at or below the poverty level;
- Feasibility and cost-effectiveness in producing immediate and direct benefits;
- Evidence of substantive and effective past performance in similar activities;
- Proposals that have measurable outcomes that are consistent with the City's overall direction on use of City funds (see application for list of outcomes by category of activity); and
- Evidence of fundraising efforts and capacity to attain greater self-sufficiency and less reliance on City funding.

The City of Berkeley has various plans and policy documents that set forth relevant City priorities. Consideration will be given to proposals that support the goals contained in these documents. Below is a list of the plans or documents that are relevant to this RFP:

- [Alameda County Home Together 2026 Community Plan](#)
- [Berkeley Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Berkeley Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development](#)
- [Berkeley's Homeless Coordinated Entry](#)
- [City of Berkeley General Plan](#)
- [City of Berkeley's Health Status Report](#)
- [City of Berkeley's Strategic Plan](#)
- [Everyone Home Strategic Plan](#)
- [Oakland-Berkeley-Alameda County Continuum of Care Centering Racial Equity in Homeless System Design Report](#)
- [Youth Equity Partnership \(YEP\) Presentation to the 2 x 2 Committee](#)

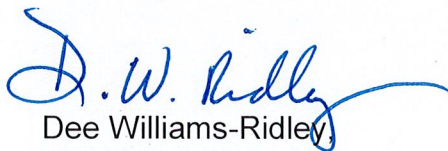
You can also contact City staff for a copy of any plan or policy document.

Applications for FY 2025 - 2028 under this RFP must be submitted via an online, web-based application. For detailed information on how to submit an application, please see the RFP and/or attend the scheduled webinar. If you have any questions, require assistance in submitting the application, are seeking a hardship exemption, or to seek a disability-related accommodation, please contact Housing and Community Services at CommunityAgencyRFP@berkeleyca.gov.

All applications must be submitted via the online application system by 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 22, 2023. Due to the complexity of the application, applicants are encouraged to begin the application early and submit before the deadline.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Sincerely,



Dee Williams-Ridley
City Manager

Attachments:

1. FY 2025 – 2028 Community Agency Request for Proposal

CC: Dr. Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services
Margot Ernst, Manager of Housing and Community Services, HHCS