



May 5, 2023

CRISESgrants@dss.ca.gov

CRISES Grant Pilot Program: Letter of Intent

Letter of intent for

Requesting Agency: Berkeley Fire Department
2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Berkeley, CA 94710

Point of Contact: Julie Haslam
jhaslam@berkeleyca.gov
(510) 292-8836

The City of Berkeley Fire Department (BFD) intends to engage in a public solicitation to select one or more Community Based Organization (CBO) partners for the purpose of submitting an application in response to this Request For Application (RFA). The CBO partner(s) will provide nurse practitioners with expertise in providing field-based medical care for the unhoused, high frequency 911 users, and those who lack access to primary and preventative care.

If funded, the BFD will a specialized medical response team inclusive of a nurse practitioner and a paramedic within the 911 system. This specialized medical response team will improve the delivery of healthcare care to vulnerable groups by meeting the clients where they are, providing safe and appropriate care using a holistic systems approach, and helping to facilitate client navigation and transitions within the healthcare and social services systems. Client contact will include treatment of acute issues, connection to outpatient resources, and coaching to support client establishing care connections that will meet chronic care needs and limit contacts with law enforcement and other emergency responders.

We know that Emergency Departments (ED) are overcrowded and have little surge capacity, only 3% of patients that visit ED require critical care, and only 15% of patients from the ED get admitted to the hospital. The high-risk population the specialized medical response unit will serve have low Social Determinants of Health (SoDH) and

DAVID SPRAGUE / INTERIM FIRE CHIEF
2100 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WAY 510.981.3473
DSPRAGUE@CITYOFBERKELEY.INFO



often relies on the 911 system as a social service and healthcare support system. The team will identify and address health inequalities and gaps in care within the 911 system to help reduce health disparities and improve outcomes amongst the unhoused, high frequency 911 users, and those who lack access to primary and preventative care.

In the first quarter of 2023, the number of 911 responses to Berkeley's unhoused population increased from 5.06% to 5.92% of total call volume. A breakdown of those responses showed a disproportionate number of substance abuse, behavioral health, and chronic complaints. Current legislation and legal barriers prevent traditional California community paramedic programs to connect these patients to the appropriate outpatient resources or medical respite beds. The BFD is committed to improving the landscape of how healthcare is delivered through this innovative and novel approach. This specialized medical response program will meet clients where they are, connecting 911 system users with healthcare resources specific to their healthcare needs, and improve access to healthcare for low acuity and high-risk patient populations.

Proposed Timeline:

Description of Activity	Date
Submit letter of Intent to engage in public solicitation to create partnership with one or more CBO partners	May 5, 2023
Announce in public forum our intent to partner with a qualified CBO	May 12, 2023
Questions from CBO during open period Public acceptance deadline inviting interested CBO partners	May 26, 2023
Letter of intent from interested CBO partners due date	June 2, 2023
CBO proposals for partnership review and evaluated	June 7, 2023
Announce CBO Selection for partnership	June 9, 2023
Public Meeting for community involvement and engagement	June 15, 2023



Formation of Community based committee with CBO, BFD, and community members	June 22, 2023
CBO and BFD submit written questions during application period	June 30, 2023
Completion of draft application	July 10, 2023
Final review of application with CBO, stakeholders, community-based committee	June 12, 2023
Submit completed application	July 14, 2023

We are pleased to present this letter of intent, thank you for the consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Sprague", written over a horizontal line.

David Sprague