

## QUICK FACTS

### What is the SCU?

- The Specialized Care Unit is a 3-person team including: a clinician, peer specialist, and EMT.
- The SCU responds to non-violent crisis calls without involving law enforcement.
- Available to anyone in Berkeley!

### When should I call the SCU?

- If someone is experiencing a mental health or substance use related crises, such as:
  - Unable to calm down (anxiety)
  - Thoughts of self harm
  - Substance use concerns
- The SCU operates everyday, 6 am to 4 pm. Call 510-948-0075 if you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis.

### The SCU can respond to adults and minors in any part of Berkeley.

- Crises can happen anywhere, anytime. The SCU is able to respond within the comfort of your home, out in the community, or even on the streets.



## CALL THE SCU IN THE EVENT OF A CRISIS:

Phone : 510-948-0075



## HOURS OF OPERATION:

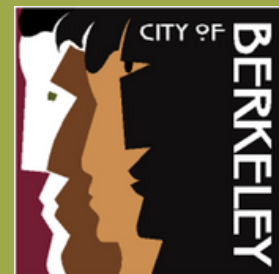
The SCU operates daily from  
6 am - 4 pm



Scan the QR Code for more information about this service or visit this link:  
[bit.ly/BerkSCU](https://bit.ly/BerkSCU)

### Questions about the SCU?

Send an email to  
[HHCS@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:HHCS@berkeleyca.gov)



Health, Housing and  
Community Services



# Berkeley Launches SPECIALIZED CARE UNIT (SCU)





## HOW DID THE SCU START?

In response to the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police in May 2020 and the ensuing protests across the nation, a conversation emerged about how public safety can be done differently. As part of the City of Berkeley's broader initiative of Re-Imagining Public Safety, the City developed a vision for a 24/7 crisis response without police involvement to support people experiencing a non-violent crisis.

To create a program to meet Berkeley's needs, the City of Berkeley conducted extensive community outreach, analyzed over 30 crisis response programs, and established the SCU Steering Committee, which includes community members and city staff.

## A FIRST FOR BERKELEY!

The SCU is Berkeley's first independent crisis response team that does not include police! This care-based team will use trained expertise to help community members experiencing a crisis.

If there is an immediate danger or notification of someone being hurt or severely injured, the SCU will notify 911.



## SCU SERVICES

Are you or someone you know experiencing a crisis or in distress?

Symptoms may include:

- Unable to calm down
- Anger
- Depression or feelings of helplessness
- Confusion
- Thoughts of self-harm
- Delusions or illogical thinking
- Mood changes
- Social withdrawal
- Substance use related concerns

Services provided may include:

- De-escalation
- Water, or other wellness supplies
- Referrals to community services

Examples/behaviors of above signs and symptoms of a mental health or substance use related crisis can (and sometimes do) mimic a medical emergency. The SCU call taker will ask questions regarding medical history and behavioral health history to better understand the call.



## HOW DO BERKELEY COMMUNITY MEMBERS ACCESS SCU SERVICES?

Community members who are experiencing or witnessing a crisis can call **(510) 948-0075** to request SCU services. Community members will be asked general questions about themselves and the crisis such as:

- Caller name and/or name of client (if known)
- Callback number or phone number
- Location and general description of the person experiencing the crisis
- Information about the crisis

Providing this information will help the SCU call back if the caller gets disconnected, and get a clear understanding of the crisis before meeting the client.

