

Berkeley Homeless
Services Panel of Experts

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

January 7, 2026 – 7:00 PM

North Berkeley Senior Center, Aspen Room
1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709

Mayor Ishii:
Carole Marasovic –
Chair

Rashi Kesarwani:
Noah Brod

Terry Taplin:
Denah S. Bookstein

Ben Bartlett:
Paul Kealoha-Blake

Igor Tregub:
Mary Ann Meany

Shoshana O’Keefe:
Vacant

Brent Blackaby:
Steven Segal

Cecilia Lunaparra:
Vacant

Mark Humbert:
Alan Levy

Josh Jacobs, Homeless Services Coordinator, Homeless Services Panel of Experts
Staff Secretary, jjacobs@berkeleyca.gov, 510.225.8035

All items are for discussion and possible action.

*Public comment for items not on the agenda limited to 2 minutes. No exchange with
commission permitted.*

Public comment for items on the agenda taken as items arise.

1. Roll call.
2. Public comment for items not on the agenda.
3. Reading of the land acknowledgment.

Action Items:

4. Approval of the agenda. Discussion and possible action.
5. Presentation, with Q and A, from E3 initiative team, Savannah Whicker, CEO of Economic and Housing Development, Evansville, Indiana; Joshua Brewer, Unit Commander, Crime Prevention Unit, Evansville Police Department; and Samuel SeDoris, Supervisor, Mental Health Division, Evansville Police Department from Evansville, Indiana on their successful collaborative model implemented addressing homelessness, housing stabilization, mental health wellness, and reversal of negative contact with the criminal justice system. Discussion and possible action.
6. Presentation from Cari Arredondo, City of Berkeley City Manager's office, and Michael Thomas, director of programs, Options Recovery Services on Berkeley's new CareBridge program. Discussion and possible action.

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All

7. Approval of the minutes from November 5, 2025 meeting. Discussion and possible action.
8. Update on upcoming site visits. Discussion and possible action.
9. Chair report. Discussion only.
10. Adjourn.

Attachments:

1. November 5, 2025 minutes.
2. Description of ECHO Housing Corporation's E3 Initiative and presenters' profiles.
3. CareBridge Program presenters' profiles.
4. November 18, 2025 Berkeley CareBridge Program Item to Council.
5. Measure P funded programs identified for site visits.
6. December 23, 2025 Continuum of Care Update.

Correspondence and Notice of Decision Requests:

Deadlines for Receipt:

- A) Supplemental Materials must be received by 5 PM the day before the meeting.
- B) Supplemental Communications must be received no later than noon the day of the meeting.

Procedures for Distribution:

- A) Staff will compile all Supplemental Materials and Supplemental Communications received by the deadlines above into a Supplemental Packet, and will print 15 copies of this packet for the Commission meeting.
- B) For any Supplemental Material or Communication from a Commissioner received after these deadlines, it is the Commissioner's responsibility to ensure that 15 printed copies are available at the meeting. Commissioners will not be reimbursed for any printing or materials expenses.
- C) Staff will neither print nor distribute Supplemental Communications or Materials for subcommittee meetings.

Procedures for Consideration:

- A) The Commission must make a successful motion to accept and receive all Supplemental Materials and Communications into the record. This includes the Supplemental Packet compiled by staff.
- B) Each additional Supplemental Material or Communication received by or before the meeting that is not included in the Supplemental packet (i.e., those items received after the respective deadlines above) must be individually voted upon to be considered by the full Commission.
- C) Supplemental Materials subject to a Commission vote that are not accepted by motion of the Commission, or for which there are not at least 15 paper copies (9 for each Commission seat, one for staff records, and 5 for the public) available by the scheduled start of the meeting, may not be considered by the Commission.

****Supplemental Materials are defined as any items authored by one or more Commissioners, pertaining to an agenda item but available after the agenda and packet for the meeting has been distributed, on which the Commission is asked to take vote at the meeting. This includes any letter to Council, proposed Council report, or other correspondence on behalf of the Commission for which a full vote of the Commission is required.***

****Supplemental Communications** are defined as written emails or letters from members of the public or from one or more Commissioners, the intended audience of which is the full Commission. Supplemental Communications cannot be acted upon by the Commission, and they may or may not pertain to agenda items.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Health, Housing & Community Services Department located at 2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor.

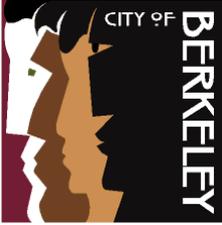
Public Comment Policy:

Members of the public may speak on any items on the Agenda and items not on the Agenda during the initial Public Comment period. Members of the public may not speak more than once on any given item. The Chair may limit public comments to 3 minutes or less.

COMMUNITY ACCESS INFORMATION

ADA Disclaimer "This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the ADA Program Coordinator at 510-981-6418 (V) or 510-981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting."

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information. The Health, Housing & Community Services Department does not take a position as to the content.



Berkeley Homeless
Services Panel of Experts

MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2025

1. **Roll Call:** 7:00 PM
Present: Marasovic, Brod, Meany, Segal, & Kealoha-Blake.
Absent: Levy & Bookstein (Leave of Absence).
Staff: Jacobs.
Council: None.
Public: 3.
2. Public Comment: 1.
3. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement.

Action Items:

4. Approval of the Agenda

Action: M/S/C Meany/Segal move to approve the agenda as amended to remove item 5 due to speaker's unforeseen circumstances.

Vote: *Ayes:* Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Segal, Brod, & Meany.
Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Levy & Bookstein.

5. Approval of minutes from October 8, 2025 meeting. Discussion and possible action.

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Brod move to approve the minutes as written.

Ayes: Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Segal, Brod.
Noes: None. *Abstain:* Meany. *Absent:* Levy & Bookstein.

6. Discussion and selection of site visits to providers funded under Measure P monies. Discussion and possible action.

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Segal move to conduct sites visits to Beyond Horizon, Campus Motel, North County HRC, and STAIR Center and requests that each provider provides (1) how many people they have served in the last year, (2) if they provide housing services, how many people were housed in the last year, (3) after a person exits, how many people received follow-up services in the last year, (4) reports submitted to their contract monitor, and (5) how many people, due to their

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All

mental health status, have caused behavioral health disruptions in their facility and how they addressed those mental health issues. Request that all Measure P funded projects provide contract monitor evaluations. The remaining five providers provide an in-person or virtual presentation with Q&A prior to HSPE making any fiscal recommendations.

Ayes: Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Segal, Brod, & Meany.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Levy & Bookstein.

7. Acting Chair report. Discussion only.

Discussion. No action taken.

8. Letter urging Council to implement Homeless Commission recommendation passed by Council on March 9, 2021 enforcing source of income discrimination procedure. Discussion and possible action.

Action: M/S/C Meany/Segal move to bring this back up in January.

Ayes: Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Segal, Brod, & Meany.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Levy & Bookstein.

9. Letter to add for Council to refer to staff to consult with the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund regarding their source of income enforcement inquiry to all jurisdictions in California and request to engage on such. Discussion and possible action.

Discussion. No action taken.

10. Approval of 2026 HSPE meeting schedule. Discussion and possible action.

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Segal move to adopt the first Wednesday of the month as the regular meeting schedule with the exception of April which will be held on April 15th.

Ayes: Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Segal, Brod, & Meany.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Levy & Bookstein.

11. Chair election (applicable through February, 2026). Discussion and possible action.

Action: M/S/C Segal/Brod move to elect Carole Marasovic as chair.

Ayes: Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Segal, Brod, & Meany.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Levy & Bookstein.

Public

*Homeless Services Panel of Experts
November 5, 2025*

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes Approved on: _____

Josh Jacobs, Commission Secretary: _____

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All

2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704 Tel: 510.225.8035 TDD: 510.981.6903 Fax: 510.981.5450
E-mail: hspe@cityofberkeley.info | [Homeless Services Panel of Experts](#)



[Back to ECHO Housing Community Development Page](#)



E3 Initiative - Education, Encouragement, Enforcement

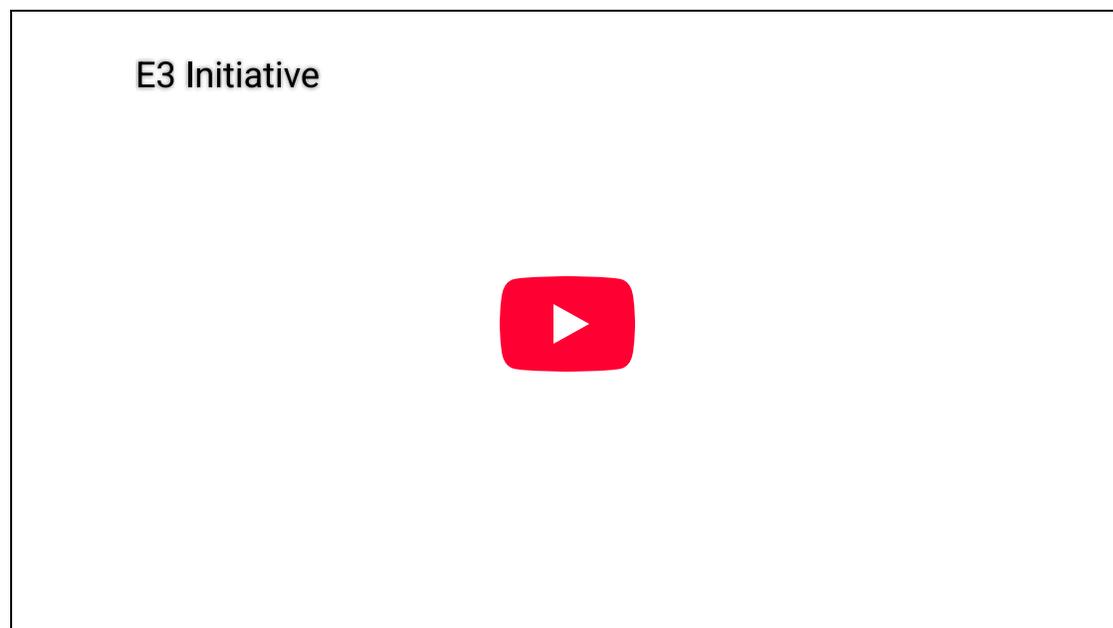
**A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO
TACKLING PRESSING ISSUES IN THE
COMMUNITY**

The E³ Initiative originated as a powerful cross-sector collaboration between the Evansville Police Department, Southwestern Behavioral



Healthcare, and **ECHO Housing & Community Development** to tackle issues surrounding homelessness, mental health, and community safety. Since its initial inception in 2020 the model has been expanded to support multiple issues in the community that see higher success rates when partners come together.

Formed using a hybrid of two different models (Sarasota, Florida and Indianapolis, Indiana Police Departments) and then adapted for our community in Southwest Indiana, the E³ Initiative builds on the values of **Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement** to create meaningful, sustainable change in the lives of our community's most vulnerable members.



Why?

For years, service providers and systems have worked in silos—trying hard but often missing the mark. Despite well-meaning efforts, we've watched issues such as the cycle of homelessness continue. The various housing models offered rapid support, but for individuals with

complex mental health needs or untreated trauma, housing alone wasn't enough.



The E³ Initiative steps in to fill the gap.

We focus not just on getting people housed but keeping them housed. That means building relationships, enforcing boundaries, supporting recovery, and working together—across agencies, disciplines, and systems—to develop truly individualized, long-term plans for success.

Who?

The E³ Initiative traditionally brings together:

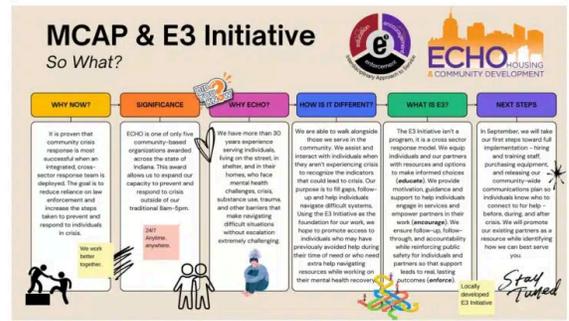
- **Law Enforcement:** Using their role not just for safety and justice, but as front-line advocates who build trust and intervene early.
- **Mental Health Clinicians:** Addressing trauma, substance use, and psychiatric needs with compassion and care.
- **Housing & Social Services:** Building long-term support plans, advocating for stability, and ensuring that each client's unique needs are met.
- **Judicial Partners:** Integrating the courts, parole, and probation in a way that

How?

Through the \$1 million Mobile Crisis Accelerator Program (MCAP) award, ECHO is expanding the locally founded **E3 Initiative** into a **24/7 Mobile Crisis Response network**. This means trained peer specialists and crisis responders will be available day and night to respond to calls from **988, 911, and community partners**. By meeting people where they are—in the moment of crisis—we can provide **on-site de-escalation, assessment, and direct connections** to housing, treatment, and long-term support.

empowers—not punishes—clients working toward stability.

- **Community Members & Agencies:** From shelters and treatment centers to outreach workers and volunteers, the entire community plays a part.
- **Diverse Stakeholders:** Whether tackling issues of homelessness and mental health crisis, unhoused situations, or other focus areas of community development, recognizing the value of appropriate partnerships is critical to the initiative’s success.



The Three Pillars of E3



Education

We start with internal education, training providers and partners on the laws, systems, and barriers our clients face. This knowledge enables us to guide clients more effectively, using the right tools at the right time.



Encouragement

We meet clients where they are—literally. Home visits, outreach in the community, and personal relationship-building provide the foundation for trust. By showing up consistently and compassionately, we help individuals begin their path toward stability and self-determination.



Enforcement

Accountability is advocacy. Whether it's assisting individuals with navigating court-mandated treatment, addressing community safety concerns, or navigating landlord-tenant dynamics, enforcement is about ensuring all parties—clients, providers, and neighbors—are safe and supported.



How is E3 Different?



CLIENT-CENTERED, TRAUMA-INFORMED

We honor the voices of those we serve. Plans are built with them, not for them.

Real-Life Outcomes



INTERVENTION FOR CHRONICALLY VICTIMIZED AND VULNERABLE FEMALE:

A woman experiencing chronic victimization and engaging in illegal activity due to severe mental illness had previously been unable to maintain stable housing due to her transient lifestyle. EPD's Crime Prevention Office successfully removed her from an unsafe

environment, allowing ECHO to provide emergency shelter.

Simultaneously, Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare initiated intensive engagement efforts to connect her with mental health and

stabilization services. The program has since been integrated into Assisted



Get Involved!

Whether you're a service provider, policymaker, or community member who wants to learn more or collaborate, we welcome your involvement. To stay up to date or get connected:

- ☛ Do you want to learn more?
- ☛ Schedule a tailored training or workshop?
- ☛ Learn how your agency can become a partner – contact us!
info@echohousing.org

Meet Savannah Whicker

Chief Executive Officer



Savannah Whicker joined ECHO Housing in 2018, encompassing many roles prior to becoming the Chief Executive Officer in August 2022, previously serving as the Assistant Director, Program Director, and Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Coordinator.

Prior to joining the ECHO Housing team, Savannah worked for the State of Indiana in workforce development. Her understanding of housing instability and her passion for assisting the low-income community with overcoming barriers to housing and employment is what led her to her current position.

Savannah is an honorably discharged U.S. Army Veteran, deploying to both Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and to Louisiana for humanitarian relief in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 under the 1st Cavalry Division. After transitioning from activity duty military, Savannah worked for General Dynamics and the Department of the Army at the Intelligence Center of Excellence on Fort Huachuca in Arizona. Savannah is a graduate from the American Military University.



Sgt. Joshua Brewer

**CRIME PREVENTION
UNIT
COMMANDER**

Sgt. Joshua Brewer is the CPO Unit Commander, he supervises and oversees the community police unit, its officers and its programs. Sgt. Brewer can be reached at (812)435-6039 and is stationed in the Crime Prevention Office along with the other Crime Prevention Officers.



Sgt. Samuel SeDoris

**MENTAL HEALTH
SUPERVISOR**

Sgt. Samuel SeDoris has served with the Evansville Police Department since 2011. He spent his first seven years in motor patrol, including two years as a Field Training Officer, before being promoted to Sergeant in 2019. In 2021, he joined the Peer Support Team, where he now serves as the team's coordinator. In January 2025, Sgt. SeDoris assumed leadership of the Mobile Field Force and was appointed supervisor of the Mental Health Division. In this role, he works closely with the Mental Health Liaison and community partners to provide meaningful support for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis while navigating the criminal justice system. In addition to these responsibilities, Sgt. SeDoris also serves as the CALEA Accreditation Manager. He can be reached at (812)435-5086.



Mike Thomas oversees community outreach programs, housing, and special projects. Mike has been a dedicated leader in the helping/behavioral health professions for over 11 years and has held many positions with Options, including Men's Program Coordinator, Admissions Director, Director of Special Projects, and Senior Director of Programs. He has been instrumental in developing many programs at Options including the West Oakland treatment clinic and the Santa Rita Jail substance abuse program.

Mike began his career working for the Men and Women of Valor as an outreach specialist focusing on at-risk youth and gang prevention. He has witnessed firsthand the devastation drugs and violence have played and has both professional and lived experience. Understanding the great need for substance abuse treatment, he went to school to become a substance abuse counselor and began his career with Options Recovery services as a substance abuse counselor. Simultaneously, Mike continued his education earning both his bachelor's and master's degree in Social Work.

Mike left Options to become the Executive Director at Alhambra Valley Retreat, a Kaiser-affiliated residential treatment program in Martinez, CA. While at Alhambra Valley Retreat, Mike led the program to a 3-year Commission on Accreditation of Residential Facilities (CARF) accreditation and oversaw the program's expansion. Mike returned to Options to become the Director of Special Projects and was promoted to Senior Director of Programs as part of the current executive team. Mike is a third-generation Berkeley native and cares about his community and those that live in it. As a proven leader, Mike brings his expertise to help tackle the big issues in Berkeley as well as the greater Bay Area.

Carianna “Cari” Arredondo

As assistant to the City Manager, Cari leads the interdepartmental Reimagining Public Safety Initiative for the City of Berkeley. In addition to this work, she has partnered with numerous departments to secure millions of dollars in grant funding to advance various initiatives including an \$8 million grant to advance the Berkeley Carebridge initiative.

Cari’s experience spans national arts and educational institutions, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Artpace San Antonio, Americans for the Arts, and Mills College, reflecting a career rooted in arts education, cultural policy, and institutional leadership. Prior to joining the City of Berkeley in 2021, she served as Assistant Dean of Special Projects in the School of Education at Mills College, where she oversaw the school’s reaccreditation process, supported strategic initiatives, and taught graduate-level courses in the Teacher Education Program focused on arts-based and interdisciplinary practices. She also served as the Children’s School’s inaugural Artist-in-Residence, integrating creative inquiry into early childhood education.



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 18, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Carianna Arredondo, Assistant to the City Manager, Reimagining Public Safety

Subject: Contract with Options Recovery Services for Berkeley CareBridge Program and Appropriation for Administrative and Evaluation Support in the City Manager's Office

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to:

- Execute a contract with Options Recovery Services for an amount not-to-exceed \$7,510,842.00 to operate the Berkeley CareBridge post-arrest diversion and reentry program for three (3) years, and execute any amendments thereto (including scope, budget realignments, and time extensions) that remain within the grant award and City policies;
- Appropriate \$409,158.00 in funding for administrative and evaluation support within the City Manager's Office for the Assistant to the City Manager position (temporary), equivalent to 0.5079 FTE over three years to support grant administration, program oversight, and evaluation requirements.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

On September 30, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 71,963–N.S authorizing the City of Berkeley to accept the \$8,000,000.00 Proposition 47 Cohort 5 grant award from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). This is a no-match grant with no impact on the City's General Fund.

This action appropriates funds consistent with the grant budget and authorizes execution of a service contract with Options Recovery Services.

Funding will support the implementation of the Berkeley CareBridge Program for three (3) years. The Berkeley CareBridge Program is a post-arrest diversion and reentry initiative for individuals experiencing homelessness and behavioral health needs. Planned grant allocations include:

Options Recovery Services Contract – Not to Exceed \$7,510,842.00

- Meals (Dorothy Day House): **\$500,000.00**
- Hotel Master Lease (30 rooms, 3 years): **\$4,002,750.00**
- Senior Director (0.15 FTE): **\$114,750.00**
- Program Director (0.5 FTE): **\$273,000.00**
- Program Coordinator (1.0 FTE): **\$390,000.00**
- Data Specialist (0.5 FTE): **\$225,000.00**
- Case Managers (2.0 FTE): **\$504,000.00**
- Peer Specialists (2.0 FTE): **\$504,000.00**
- Program Specialists/Navigators (2.0 FTE): **\$504,000.00**
- Database Services: **\$27,000.00**
- Tablets/Laptops (8 units): **\$3,200.00**
- Client Support & Hygiene: **\$76,000.00**
- Indirect Costs¹: **\$387,142.00**

Total: \$7,510,842.00

Assistant to the City Manager (administration + evaluation duties):

- 0.5079 FTE × (\$161,732 salary + \$104,779 benefits) × 3 years

Total: \$409,158.00

Please note that city staff will return at a later date to allocate the grant balance (\$80,000.00) for program evaluation.

The grant could be cancelled by BSCC during the grant period if insufficient funds are not available through the Proposition 47 grant program, which is funded by the annual transfer of savings generated by Proposition 47. On or before July 31 of each fiscal year, the California Department of Finance will calculate the State savings associated with Proposition 47, which will determine whether sufficient funds are available for funding Berkeley CareBridge during the three-year period.

Budget changes beyond June 30, 2026 will be included in subsequent year budgets, contingent on Council budget approval. Should future funding not be available through

¹ Indirect Costs represent administrative and overhead expenses that support overall agency operations rather than specific program activities. Portions may include shared costs such as executive or administrative staff time — for example, the Chief of Operations or Executive Director — as well as fractions of facility, utility, or accounting infrastructure costs that enable delivery of the grant program.

the BSCC grant, staff would either seek alternate funding to continue the program or dissolve the program due to insufficient resources.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City submitted a competitive application on June 23, 2025, and was awarded \$8,000,000 under Proposition 47 Cohort 5. Council formally accepted the award on September 30, 2025, (Resolution No. 71,963–N.S.). The grant term is October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2029, including a 3-month start-up and 6-month closeout/evaluation period. Program operations are planned to begin January 1, 2026.

This item authorizes execution of a service contract with Options Recovery Services and appropriates staffing funds for administration and evaluation in the City Manager's Office to implement Berkeley CareBridge. The program's primary goal is to reduce recidivism by providing mental health and substance use support for justice-involved individuals. While most participants are anticipated to be unhoused, the program is also designed to serve individuals who are not experiencing homelessness but meet program criteria and would benefit from services.

Under the contract, Options Recovery Services will be responsible for:

- Operating a 30-room, master-leased hotel for program participants.
- Maintaining 24/7 on-site staffing with Navigators and Peer Specialists, with supervisory staff on call.
- Conducting intake, assessments, and individualized six-month care planning.
- Delivering case management, peer support, and recovery mentorship.
- Connecting participants to behavioral health care, substance use disorder treatment, and medication management.
- Providing housing navigation for permanent placements, civil legal aid referrals, and employment readiness training.
- Coordinating daily meal services.
- Supplying hygiene kits and client support resources.
- Submitting monthly data reports, quarterly narrative updates, and contributing to the City's Local Evaluation Report.

The City of Berkeley has declared and extended a Shelter Crisis (Resolution No. 71,155-N.S.), authorizing expedited measures to provide shelter and services to unhoused residents.

Options Recovery Services is uniquely positioned to launch the Berkeley CareBridge Program for the following reasons:

- Local presence and capacity to secure and operate a 30-room, 40-bed master-leased hotel;
- Experience delivering integrated services including housing operations, case management, behavioral health support, and peer mentorship;
- Existing partnerships with key providers such as Dorothy Day House; and
- Infrastructure to meet City and BSCC requirements as well as 24/7 staffing, incident reporting, monthly data submissions, and quarterly narrative reporting.
- Ongoing partnership with the City's Health, Housing, and Community Services Department (Mental Health Division) through the Encampment-Based Mobile Wellness Center Project, funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which deploys a mobile van to provide wellness services, outreach, and behavioral health support to unhoused residents, demonstrating the organization's capacity to deliver coordinated, City-aligned behavioral health services in the field.

A competitive solicitation at this stage would delay implementation, jeopardize program compliance, and risk loss of grant funding. A sole source contract with Options Recovery Services is therefore warranted.

BACKGROUND

Proposition 47 reclassified certain non-violent offenses and established a grant program to support treatment-based alternatives to incarceration. The BSCC administers these funds to local governments implementing restorative, trauma-informed, and rehabilitative services for justice-involved individuals.

The Berkeley CareBridge Program was developed through a multi-departmental effort led by the City Manager's Office, in collaboration with key departments including the Health, Housing, and Community Services Department and Police Department, service providers, and members of the Proposition 47 Local Advisory Committee (LAC). The program design aims to fill longstanding gaps in housing, treatment, and reentry support for justice-involved individuals experiencing homelessness and behavioral health needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approving execution of the contract and appropriating administrative and evaluation funding will enable the City to implement the Berkeley CareBridge Program in a timely and compliant manner. Options Recovery Services is uniquely qualified to provide these services because of its demonstrated capacity to operate transitional housing, deliver integrated behavioral health and reentry supports, and meet BSCC reporting and compliance standards. Through this partnership, the City will:

- Launch a transitional housing and wraparound services program by January 1, 2026.
- Provide trauma-informed, culturally responsive case management, treatment connections, and supportive services.
- Ensure compliance with State funding requirements, including timely reporting and evaluation.
- Advance the City’s Reimagining Public Safety goals by reducing reliance on the criminal justice system and addressing root causes of recidivism.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None. Delay in approving this action would risk program implementation and jeopardize grant compliance.

CONTACT PERSON

Carianna Arredondo, Assistant to the City Manager, Reimagining Public Safety, 510-981-6903

Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police, 510-981-5700

Scott Gilman, Director of Health, Housing, and Community Services, (510) 981-5400

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH OPTIONS RECOVERY SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$7,510,842 FOR THE BERKELEY CAREBRIDGE POST-ARREST DIVERSION AND REENTRY PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING \$409,158 FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND EVALUATION SUPPORT WITHIN THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. No. 71,963–N.S authorizing the City of Berkeley to accept \$8,000,000 in Proposition 47 Cohort 5 grant funding from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to implement a post-arrest diversion and reentry program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley developed the Berkeley CareBridge Program through a multi-departmental effort in collaboration with service providers and the Proposition 47 Local Advisory Committee, designed to fill longstanding gaps in housing, behavioral health, and reentry support for justice-involved individuals; and

WHEREAS, Options Recovery Services (ORS) is uniquely qualified to implement the Berkeley CareBridge Program by the January 1, 2026 launch date due to its:

- Capacity to secure and operate a 30-room master-leased hotel;
- Experience delivering integrated services, including housing operations, case management, behavioral health support, and peer mentorship;
- Established partnerships with providers such as Dorothy Day House; and
- Infrastructure to meet BSCC requirements for 24/7 staffing, incident reporting, and data and narrative reporting; and

WHEREAS, under the contract, ORS will be responsible for operating the transitional housing facility, conducting intake and individualized care planning, delivering case management, peer support, and behavioral health linkages, providing housing navigation and employment readiness support, coordinating daily meals, supplying hygiene and client support resources, and meeting BSCC and City evaluation requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that a competitive solicitation would significantly delay program implementation, jeopardize compliance with BSCC timelines, and risk loss of grant funding, and that a sole source contract with ORS is therefore warranted; and

WHEREAS, grant funds also provide for administrative and evaluation support within the City Manager's Office through the Assistant to the City Manager, Reimagining Public Safety, to ensure program oversight, compliance, and evaluation requirements are met.

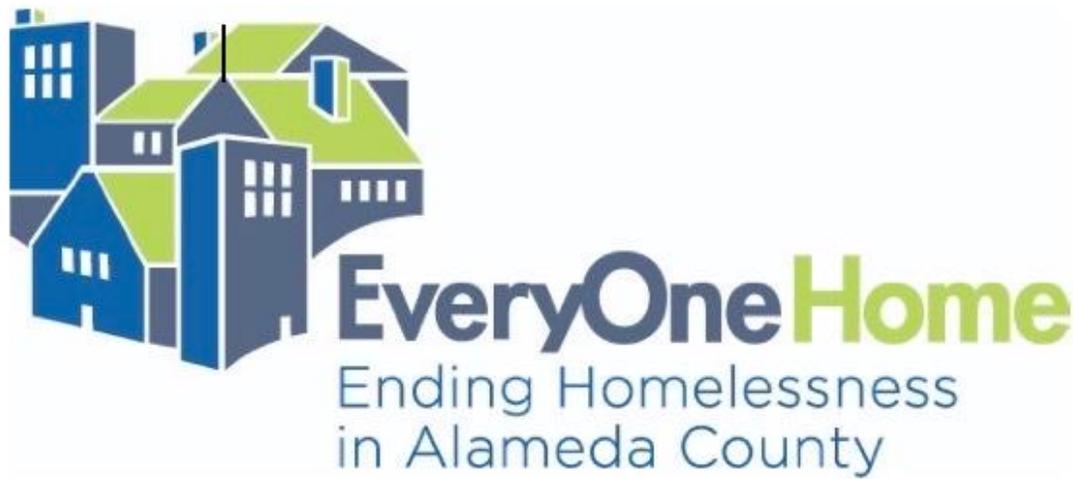
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to:

1. Execute a contract and any amendments thereto with Options Recovery Services for an amount not-to-exceed \$7,510,842.00 to operate the Berkeley CareBridge Program for three (3) years, provided that any amendments remain within the grant award and City policies; and
2. Appropriate \$409,158.00 for administrative and evaluation support within the City Manager's Office, equivalent to 0.5079 FTE over three years through the Assistant to the City Manager position, to oversee administration, program monitoring, and evaluation of the Berkeley CareBridge Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to take any actions necessary to implement this Resolution, including execution of related agreements with the BSCC.

Planned Site Visits

1. Beyond Horizon
2. Campus Motel
3. North County Housing Resource Center (HRC)
4. STAIR Center

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

December 23rd CoC NOFO Update

FY2025 NOFO blocked until further notice

Dear CoC Community,

Please read the latest update on the HUD CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity from the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#):

"On December 23, 2025, a federal court issued a written preliminary injunction that affects the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) funding process. This decision is important for communities, providers, and partners working to prevent and end homelessness.

The court ordered HUD to pause several recent actions related to CoC funding. Specifically, HUD's decision to cancel the 2024-2025 Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been halted. **The court also stopped HUD from moving forward with the new FY 2025 CoC NOFO and from enforcing new conditions or deadlines tied to that NOFO.** This order is preliminary and will remain in effect until the court rules on the case.

What this means is that HUD must return to the "status quo" that existed under the FY 2024-2025 NOFO. HUD is required to take steps to process eligible renewal projects for FY 2025 using the FY 2024-2025 NOFO rules. However, the court made clear that this order does not require HUD to award or obligate funds yet.

HUD must also communicate with communities and funding recipients about any steps they need to take so eligible renewals can be processed. [A report on HUD's plan and timeline is due to the court by December 30, 2025.](#)

For providers and CoCs, this ruling offers temporary stability and prevents sudden changes while the case continues. We encourage communities to watch for official guidance from HUD and stay prepared to respond to any requests related to renewal processing. We will continue to provide updates as the case moves forward.