



Office of the City Manager

**10**

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 22, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services

Subject: Contract No. 32100178 Amendment: California Mental Health Services Authority Help@Hand Participation Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute an Amendment to the Help@Hand Participation Agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) (Contract No.32100178) to increase the amount of funding by \$140,800 for a total amount not to exceed \$541,715 through June 30, 2024, and any amendments.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

In this amendment \$140,800 will be provided from Medi-Cal Funds for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$542,715. The funds will be appropriated into the Medi-Cal budget code 316-51-503-520-0000-000-451-636110 as part of the Second Amendment to the FY 2022 Annual Appropriations Ordinance. The City previously committed \$400,915 of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to this project.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City receives State Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations (INN) funds on an annual basis. MHSA regulations require that MHSA INN are to be utilized on short term pilot projects that increase learning in the mental health field.

Help@Hand is a MHSA INN funded multi-county collaborative project which provides broad public access to mental health technology applications. In the Help@Hand Project there are currently ten counties and two cities (Berkeley, and Tri-City) who have come together through the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), to fund free access to mental health technology applications.

In November 2021, Help@Hand launched a local marketing campaign and made free access to the HeadSpace and myStrength applications available to anyone who lives, works, or goes to school in Berkeley. Since then, public interest in Headspace has been much greater than originally anticipated. In order to provide access to Headspace for more people, the CalMHSA Help@Hand Participation Agreement (Contract No.

32100178) needs to be amended to add \$140,800 to the project. These funds will be used to purchase and manage an additional 5,000 user slots (for a total of 10,000) until fall 2023.

### BACKGROUND

State of California MHSAs funds are provided to mental health jurisdictions to transform the mental health system through five funding components. The INN component is comprised of annually recurring funds for short-term pilot projects that contribute new learning in the mental health field. The MHSAs program requires jurisdictions receiving the funds to create a stakeholder-informed, locally-approved plan.

On June 26, 2018, per Resolution No. 68,493 –N.S., City Council approved the MHSAs INN Technology Suite Project Plan, which has since been renamed, “Help@Hand”. This project allocates \$462,916 of INN funds to make mental health technology apps locally accessible in Berkeley. With Resolution 69,514 –N.S., the City Council approved entering into a Participation Agreement with CalMHSAs and allocated \$352,916 in MHSAs INN funds to participate in this project. A portion of the remaining funds was used on project coordination services from Resource Development Associates. An evaluation conducted by Hatchuel, Tabernik and Associates will also be purchased with these funds. On November 30, 2021, per Resolution No. 70,122 – N.S., City Council approved the amendment of Contract No. 32100178 to add \$47,999 of local project funds for this project.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend allocating additional funds to the Help@Hand Participation Agreement in order to purchase access for the Headspace application for more people to meet community needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased isolation and limited access to mental health resources for many Berkeley residents; contributing to much greater demand for these applications than originally anticipated. Making HeadSpace available to the community is an innovative approach that has provided individuals with access to mental health resources, information, and supports.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could choose not to increase the amount of funds for this project, which would limit the number of community members that would be able access the HeadSpace App. This action is not recommended as it is not consistent with the City’s MHSAs Innovation Plan or Council’s previous direction.

Contract No. 3210078 Amendment  
California Mental Health Services Authority  
Help@Hand Participation Agreement

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 22, 2022

CONTACT PERSON

Karen Klatt, Community Services Specialist III, HHCS, (510) 981-7644

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT 32100178: AMENDMENT FOR HELP@HAND WITH THE CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the City's Department of Health, Housing & Community Services, Mental Health Division, currently receives Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations (INN) funds on an annual basis for short term projects that will increase learning in the mental health field through strategies that will either improve the access, quality, or outcomes of services, and/pr promote community collaborations; and

WHEREAS, in order to utilize MHSA INN funds, the Mental Health Division must have a stakeholder informed, locally approved plan in place; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 68,493-N.S., the City Council authorized the City Manager to approve the MHSA INN Technology Suite Project Plan to implement technology-based mental health services and supports in Berkeley utilizing \$462,916 by June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the MHSA INN Technology Suite project is part of a multi-county collaborative that utilizes a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), as the fiduciary intermediary for the project; and

WHEREAS, the multi-county collaborative renamed the Technology Suite project to the "Help@Hand" project; and

WHEREAS, in order to allocate funds to the fiscal intermediary to participate in the multi-county collaborative, the City of Berkeley was required to enter into a Participation Agreement with CalMHSA; and

WHEREAS, per Resolution No. 69,514-N.S., the City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a Participation Agreement with CalMHSA and to extend the project to June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City executed Contract No. 32100178 to enter into a Participation Agreement and allocate \$352,916 of Help@Hand project funds to CalMHSA; and

WHEREAS, per Resolution No. 70,122-N.S., the City Council authorized the City Manager to amend Contract No. 32100178 to revise the Participation Agreement and add \$47,999 of funds for the project for a total not to exceed amount of \$400,915; and

WHEREAS, public interest in the HeadSpace application has been higher than originally anticipated, and the City wishes to expand access to it; and

WHEREAS, in order to revise the Participation Agreement and allocate additional funds for this project, the City must amend Contract No. 32100178 with CalMHSA; and

**March 22, 2022**

WHEREAS, funding for this contract has been included in the FY 2022 Budget and is available in ERMA GL Code 316-51-503-520-0000-000-451-636110 subject to approval of the Second Amendment to the FY2022 Annual Appropriations.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to execute an Amendment to Contract No. 32100178 to revise the Help@Hand Participation Agreement and any amendments with CalMHSA to increase the amount by \$140,800, for a total amount not to exceed \$541,715, through June 30, 2024.

