



Office of the City Manager

02

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 10, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: David White, Deputy City Manager
Subject: Memorandum of Understanding for a Winter Relief Program

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Alameda County and the City of Berkeley for a Winter Relief Program, consisting of \$25,000 allotted from Alameda County to the City, which will provide homeless people on the streets of Berkeley housing respite through May 31, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The County has allocated \$25,000 to be spent on Winter Relief Program activities in Berkeley. The funds will be deposited and expensed from the Alameda County Grants Fund and will be officially appropriated in the Second Amendment to the FY 2021 Annual Appropriations Ordinance. Funds will be used to purchase nightly lodging in area motels and will be administered by the Neighborhood Services Division.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The unsheltered homeless population in Berkeley, Emeryville and Albany exceeds the number of available shelter beds in North County. Alameda County (“County”) has allocated funding to support winter relief programs across the county. This funding will be used to provide homeless people in Berkeley additional temporary housing options (such as motel stays) between October 15, 2020 and May 31, 2021. It will be used to improve the health and safety of residents who would otherwise remain unsheltered during this winter season. The City’s Homeless Outreach Coordinator, located in the Neighborhood Services Division, will have access to these funds and place high need and vulnerable homeless people in temporary lodging, allowing them a respite from the streets while support services staff assess needs and develop a long-term housing plan.

BACKGROUND

Annually, the County allocates funding to cities and non-profit agencies to mitigate the impact of inclement weather on people who are literally homeless living on the streets. This year, the funds will be used by the City’s Homeless Outreach Coordinator to temporarily house high need and vulnerable people, allowing them a respite from the streets while support services staff assess needs and develop a long-term housing plan.

Last year's Winter Relief program, which received \$75,000 funding, was administered by the Homeless Outreach Treatment Team (HOTT) and provided motel stays for thirty-nine separate individuals, most of whom were disabled, resulting in eight hundred ninety-eight nights of safety and serenity. With the transition of HOTT into a closed case management model, this year's Winter Relief program will be administered by the Homeless Outreach Coordinator, who has been re-assigned to the Neighborhood Services Division.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the action recommended in this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This funding will allow more homeless people to quickly move into temporary housing during this winter season while working with housing navigators to move into longer term shelter options.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

If the City were not to accept the funding from Alameda County for the Winter Relief Program, the City would either need to identify an alternate funding source to provide motel stays for unhoused individuals, or it would need to reduce the number of hotel stays it provides.

CONTACT PERSON

Eve Ahmed, Homeless Outreach Coordinator, Neighborhood Services, 510-981-7655
Erin Steffen, Assistant to the City Manager, 510-981-7017

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Memorandum of Understanding

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

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA AND THE CITY OF BERKELEY WHICH OUTLINES THE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNTY AND CITY IN THE WINTER RELIEF PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda ("COUNTY") has allocated a total of \$25,000 for respite from the elements for literally homeless people living on the streets of Berkeley during the period of October 15, 2020 through May 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the parties acknowledge that there is a lack of available shelter space to provide shelter for the homeless populations of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY and the City of Berkeley further acknowledge that funding for motel stays for unsheltered homeless individuals during the typically cold and rainy winter season will improve health and safety outcomes for residents who would otherwise remain unsheltered during inclement weather; and

WHEREAS, the City's Neighborhood Services Division staff will utilize these funds and place high need and vulnerable homeless people in temporary lodging, allowing them a respite from the streets while support services staff assess needs and develop a long-term housing plan; and

WHEREAS, the funds will be deposited and expensed from the Alameda County Grants Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to receive funds in the amount of \$25,000 and negotiate and execute a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the County of Alameda that outlines the services to be provided and the responsibilities of the County and the City in the Winter Relief Program. A record signature copy of said MOU and any amendments to be on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

