



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 3, 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: Greater Bay Area Regional Partnership Workforce, Education and Training Grant – California Mental Health Services Authority

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to enter into a Participation Agreement and any amendments with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) for the Greater Bay Area (GBA) Regional Partnership Workforce, Education and Training (WET) Grant, and to allocate local Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds in an amount not to exceed \$42,609, through June 30, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding in the amount of \$42,609 from MHSA revenue received from the State of California is available in the FY 2023 budget in MHSA Fund (Fund 315). On July 26, 2022 with Resolution No. 70,641-N.S., the City Council approved the MHSA FY2022/23 Annual Update; which included \$42,609 for this activity in the planned uses for MHSA funds.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley, Mental Health Division is currently experiencing an unprecedented number of staff vacancies. This trend is being felt throughout the State of California, making the recruitment and retention of public mental health professionals extremely difficult. Vacancies in staffing have deleterious impacts on the ability to provide services to vulnerable populations in Berkeley.

To address the need for qualified mental health workers, the state has designed the GBA WET grant, which will provide student loan repayment assistance for certain members of the mental health workforce. In order to participate in this initiative, the City must enter into a Participation Agreement with CalMHSA to allocate the local match of funds and obtain administrative services. California mental health jurisdictions need to allocate a portion of local MHSA funds to California Mental Health Services Authority

(CalMHSA) which administers the program. Then the State Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) will provide CalMHSA with matching funds for the program in that jurisdiction.

On July 26, 2022 with Resolution No. 70,641-N.S., the City Council approved the MHSA FY2022/23 Annual Update, which included \$42,609 for this activity. This item will allow the City to allocate \$42,609 of local MHSA funds to CalMHSA to participate in this initiative. CalMHSA City funds will be combined with \$129,116 from HCAI for a total of \$171,725 that will be available for the GBA WET grant. The cost for CalMHSA to administer the program is \$22,399, and the remaining funds (\$149,326) will be made available for educational loan repayment.

Specifically, this program will provide an opportunity for public mental health professionals who are in City-designated hard-to-fill and/or hard-to-retain positions to apply for partial repayment of their educational loans in exchange for a set number of years of work in the City of Berkeley's Mental Health Division. The Mental Health Division is currently in the process of determining which positions meet these criteria and the loan repayment amount, which is estimated to be somewhere between \$9,000 - \$10,000 per each awardee.

BACKGROUND

The State Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI, formerly named the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development) allocated \$40 million in WET funds for Regional Partnerships across the state for mental health workforce strategies that will be implemented through FY25. The program aims to address the shortage of mental health practitioners in the public mental health system through a framework that engages Regional Partnerships and supports individuals through five categories including:

- Pipeline Development,
- Loan Repayment Program,
- Undergraduate College and University Scholarships,
- Clinical Master and Doctoral Graduate Education Stipends, and
- Retention Activities.

Each Regional Partnership decides which strategies they want to implement to benefit the local area. The City of Berkeley is part of the GBA Regional Partnership. The Mental Health Division participated in meetings with representatives from the other counties within the GBA, and all participating counties decided to allocate these funds for the Loan Repayment program.

GBA WET will be administered by CalMHSA, a Joint Powers Authority that was formed in 2009 to create a separate public entity to provide administrative and fiscal services in support of Members' Mental/Behavioral Health Departments acting alone or in

collaboration with other Departments. CalMHSA Is governed by a Board of Directors that is comprised of the participating county or city mental/behavioral health director and a designated alternate for when the director is absent. Contributing counties provide direction into the types of initiatives that are implemented.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Hiring and retaining mental health professionals is a challenge for the City and jurisdictions across the state. Loan repayment assistance has been identified as a strategy to support diverse candidates to enter and stay in the public mental health field. This program appeared in the City Council-approved MHSA Plan as well as the Annual Update, and the recommended action is needed to effectuate participation.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could choose not to participate in GBA WET. That would be inconsistent with the City's Strategic Plan goal to attract and retain a talented and diverse City workforce, and is therefore not recommended.

CONTACT PERSON

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

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

GREATER BAY AREA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP WORKFORCE, EDUCATION & TRAINING PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI, formerly named the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development) allocated \$40 million in Workforce, Education and Training funds for Regional Partnerships across the state for mental health workforce strategies that will be implemented through FY25, to address the shortage of mental health practitioners in the public mental health system; and

WHEREAS the City of Berkeley is part of the GBA Regional Partnership and all participating counties within the GBA have decided to allocate these funds for the Loan Repayment program; and

WHEREAS the Loan Repayment Program will provide an opportunity for public mental health professionals who are in City designated hard-to-fill and/or hard-to-retain positions to apply for a portion of their educational loans to be re-paid, in exchange for a set number of years of work in the Mental Health Division; and

WHEREAS the amount of local MHSA funds the City of Berkeley is required to contribute to participate in this initiative was originally \$40,157, and this amount was subsequently increased to \$42,609; and

WHEREAS per Resolution No. 69,620-N.S., the City Council approved the MHSA FY2020/21-FY2022/23 Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan, which included \$40,157 in local MHSA funds for this program; and the City Council subsequently adopted the MHSA FY2022/23 Annual Update which revised the planned expense to \$42,209 with Resolution No. 70,641-N.S.; and

WHEREAS the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) administers this program, and in order to participate the City must enter into a Participation Agreement to allocate the local MHSA funds and obtain administrative services from CalMHSA; and

WHEREAS, in order to execute a Participation Agreement and allocate funds to CalMHSA for this initiative, City Council approval is required; and

WHEREAS, funding is available in the FY2023 budget in the MHSA Fund (Fund 315).

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 a Greater Bay Area Regional Partnership Workforce Education and Training Participation Agreement and any amendments with CalMHSA, and allocate funds for a total amount not to exceed \$42,609, through June 30, 2025.