



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 14, 2023

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: Inclement Weather Shelter Program Funding Request and Contract No. 31900284 Amendment- Dorothy Day House (DDH) to Operate an Inclement Weather Shelter

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution allocating an additional \$292,185 from Measure P to the Inclement Weather Shelter Program for a total allocation of \$412,185, and authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute an amendment to Contract No. 31900284 with Dorothy Day House (DDH) to add \$190,260 to operate an inclement weather shelter for up to 127 nights from December 3, 2022 through April 15, 2023 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,211,173.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

At its December 13, 2022 meeting, City Council allocated \$120,000 in Measure P (011-5002) to activate a inclement winter weather shelter (Shelter) for up to 45 days. The total amount of Measure P funds needed to cover both the City and operator costs to increase Shelter operations for up to 127 days is \$412,185, which will require an additional \$292,185 allocation from Measure P. The amount needed for DDH's portion of the Shelter operating costs is \$190,260. Measure P funds are available and, if approved by Council, will be added to the budget in the Second Amendment to the FY 2023 Annual Appropriations Ordinance (AAO#2).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Staff recommend that the Council allocate an additional \$292,185 in Measure P funds for the inclement weather shelter program and authorize an amendment to the City's contract with DDH so that the number of nights the Shelter can operate this winter can increase from 45 to up to 127. The extended operations and high usage also requires the addition of security, an increase in program coordination and nightly staffing, and the purchase of additional supplies, such as ponchos and blankets to improve the Shelter's operations and services.

At its December 13, 2022 meeting, City Council allocated \$120,000 to cover both City and operator costs to operate an inclement weather shelter at North Berkeley Senior Center for up to 45 nights from December 3, 2022 through April 15, 2023.

In anticipation of severe weather, Department of Health, Housing and Community Services' Housing and Community Services Division (HHCS/HCS) staff started working with DDH in December to activate an overnight inclement weather shelter at the North Berkeley Senior Center when the nightly forecast was 45 degrees or lower or 50% chance of rain.

These additional shelter activities were not specifically covered in DDH's current winter shelter contract, but DDH was able to quickly activate staff to open an overnight inclement weather shelter starting on December 3, 2022. The ongoing severe – cold and wet - weather conditions have resulted in a much higher rate of activation than originally planned for. One source shows that more than 19 inches of rain have fallen in Berkeley between December 1, 2022 and January 11, 2023.

As a result, DDH has activated the warming center 41 times (91% of the total planned) and provided more than 1,152 bednights of shelter; meaning the number of times a bed was filled for the night, in that same time period. In addition, DDH has agreed to extend the morning hours from 6:30 AM to 8:00 AM, in order to better bridge warming center hours with nearby drop-in center opening hours. Staff projects that adding these additional nights and hours will exceed budgeted costs, requiring an additional appropriation. With such a high rate of activation, HHCS is recommending sufficient budget to operate up to 127 nights total, though fewer may be required depending on weather conditions.

The estimated total costs for operating the Shelter for 127 nights this winter are detailed in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Inclement Weather Shelter Budget - 127 Days	
Line item expense (per day)	per day
City Staff - building monitor	\$ 975
Service Provider staffing costs - per day	\$ 1,331
Food	\$ 35
Building Maintenance and Supplies	\$ 300
Per day cost of operations	\$ 2,536
Estimated # of activated days	\$ 127
Subtotal of per day costs	\$ 335,425
Line item expense (other)	
Shelter Coordinator (DDH)	\$ 4,060
Program Supplies	\$ 3,100
Sat/Sun dinners	\$ 9,600
Security Contract	\$ 50,000
Transportation	\$ 10,000
Subtotal of other costs	\$ 76,760
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 412,185

BACKGROUND

The City currently provides 218 shelter beds. This includes beds accessible through the North County Housing Resource Centers, operated by Bay Area Community Services (BACS) and Women’s Daytime Drop-in Center (WDDIC) and non-congregate units coordinated by the City of Berkeley. While Berkeley shelters have started to bring occupancy numbers up to pre-pandemic levels, and the City has added non-congregate beds, the closure of 30 transition age youth shelter beds in 2020 and the temporary loss of 16 (COVID census) women’s shelter beds due to a fire at 2140 Dwight Way fire has reduced the total number of beds available in Berkeley to 81% of pre-COVID total shelter capacity. On most nights, the shelters are nearly full. City and DDH staff continue to refer people staying at the Shelter to the North County Housing Resource Center to gain access to a year-round shelter bed.

In addition to the inclement weather shelter, the City also supports DDH’s Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter program, which opened in early October and will operate 24/7 until late April. This represents a longer season than in the past two years, when the shelter operated from late November through Mid-April.

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

Dorothy Day House has a long history of operating Berkeley's inclement weather shelter program and was able to pivot quickly this year. Shelter operations will help mitigate the impact of the protracted period of severe weather this winter for unhoused residents.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Due to the immediate action needed to provide shelter from inclement weather to people living on the streets in Berkeley, no alternative to activating an inclement weather shelter program was considered.

CONTACT PERSON

Jennifer Vasquez, Community Services Specialist III, (510) 981-5431

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT NO. 31900284 AMENDMENT: DOROTHY DAY HOUSE TO OPERATE
AN INCLEMENT WEATHER SHELTER

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is committed to providing a humane response to addressing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has historically implemented a seasonal winter shelter program; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Day House, has a long history of activating Berkeley's Emergency Storm Shelter when weather was forecast to be 45 degrees or colder or there is a 50% chance of rain for up to 45 nights during the winter season; and

WHEREAS, at its December 13, 2022 City Council meeting Council authorized expenditures of up to \$120,000 to cover costs for both City and operator inclement weather shelter expenses for up to 45 nights; and

WHEREAS, severe weather conditions have increased the need for an inclement weather shelter beyond 45 nights; and

WHEREAS, the estimated City and operator costs of operating up to 127 nights of inclement weather shelter is \$412,185, and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Day House has agreed to expand its Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter (BESS) winter shelter operations to include an inclement weather shelter for up to 127 nights from December 3, 2022 through April 15, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Day Hose has an existing contract with the City of Berkeley, Contract No. 31900284; and

WHEREAS, funds in the amount of \$190,260 are needed for Dorothy Day House to operate the inclement weather shelter for up to 127 days from December 3rd through April 15, 2023; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that an additional \$292,185 in Measure P funds will be allocated to the inclement weather shelter program and appropriated to the budget as part of AA02 for a total program allocation of \$412,185; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute an amendment for Contract No. 31900284, with Dorothy Day House to add \$190,260 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$4,211,173 for the purpose of operating an inclement weather shelter program for up to 127 nights from December 3, 2022 through April 15, 2023; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that a payment of \$80,000 will be advanced prior to contract amendment execution to cover staffing and operating costs accrued since December 3, 2022; and

A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the City Clerk Department.