



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

November 21, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

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

Subject: Dorothy Day House Contract Amendment No. 31900284 to fund an Inclement Weather Shelter Program

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute an amendment to Contract No. 31900284 with Dorothy Day House (DDH) to add up to \$290,000 to operate the 2023-2024 inclement weather shelter for a total contract amount not to exceed \$6,549,173.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

At its June 26, 2023 meeting, City Council allocated \$412,185 in Measure P (Fund #011) to operate an inclement weather shelter for up to 141 nights. Start up and program delivery costs for DDH to operate the inclement weather shelter are estimated to be \$290,000. The remainder will be used to make improvements to the Veteran's Building auditorium, which will be this year's site for the inclement weather shelter.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The 2023-2024 inclement winter shelter season will be from November 27, 2023 through April 15, 2023. The shelter will be activated when the overnight temperature is forecast at 40 degrees or below or if there is a 50% chance of rain. When activated, the shelter will be open Monday through Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. and on Sundays from 3:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. This schedule closely aligns with daytime indoor options during the winter season. Nightly shelter activities will include an evening meal and information about other homelessness resources, including how to access a year-round shelter bed if available. Dorothy Day House will enter into a contract with a security company to provide additional oversight and support during shelter operating hours.

This year's inclement weather shelter is planned to be in the auditorium at the Veteran's Building. This new location is preferred because it does not have daytime programming that would be impacted, and it is just steps away from DDH's daytime drop-in center,

which has shower, laundry, and meal programs, making it easier for guests to access daytime respite and basic services. In addition to the inclement weather shelter, DDH will also operate a 24/7 winter shelter for 29 people at 2134 Martin Luther King Way. This seasonal shelter will operate during the same winter season period as the inclement weather shelter. Similar to other single adult congregate shelters in the coordinated entry system, the winter shelter beds will be accessible through the North County Housing Resource Center (HRC), operated by Bay Area Community Services (BACS).

Over the past several months, Berkeley shelters have been increasing their shelter census to reach pre-COVID levels. The addition of these two winter season shelters will increase the number of congregate shelter beds, on cold and/or rainy nights, to 297 beds. The City also coordinates referrals for an additional 90 non-congregate shelter beds for a total of 387 beds in the Berkeley shelter system.

BACKGROUND

Over the past couple of years, the inclement weather shelter at Old City Hall has shifted to a 24/7 winter shelter program that includes three meals per day and access to showers at DDH's shower program. Last year, the City activated the winter shelter and an inclement weather shelter. Due to high levels of precipitation and low temperatures last winter, the inclement weather shelter was activated for an unprecedented 127 nights and served 440 unduplicated individuals.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Dorothy Day House has a long history of operating Berkeley's inclement weather shelter program and will be able to leverage and maximize DDH resources by operating three shelters in close proximity to its meal and daytime resources programs.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

In the past, the City has only operated one seasonal shelter, which was only activated when the weather criteria was met. However, since the inclement weather shelter is now a winter shelter program with referrals coming through the North County HRC, an inclement weather shelter is needed to provide drop-in access to shelter during severe weather periods to keep unhoused residents warm and dry. Since there is still an urgent need for an inclement weather shelter and funding was already allocated in the FY24 budget for this purpose, no other alternatives were considered.

CONTACT PERSON

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

Contract No. 31900284 Amendment -
Dorothy Day House (DDH)

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Attachment:
1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT NO. 31900284 AMENDMENT: DOROTHY DAY HOUSE

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 experience activating Berkeley's Emergency Storm Shelter when weather was forecast to be 40 degrees or colder or there is a 50% chance of rain during the winter season; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Day House has agreed to operate this winter's inclement weather shelter for up to 141 nights from November 27, 2023 through April 15, 2024; and

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

WHEREAS, funds in the amount of \$290,000 are needed for Dorothy Day House to operate the inclement weather shelter for up to 141 days from November 27, 2023 through April 15, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2023, the City Council allocated \$412,185 in the FY24 budget to operate an inclement weather shelter; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute an amendment for Contract No. 31900284, with Dorothy Day House to add \$290,000 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$6,549,173 for the purpose of operating an inclement weather shelter program for up to 141 nights from November 27, 2023 through April 15, 2023; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that a payment of \$84,000 will be advanced to cover staffing and start-up costs that will be accrued while executing the amendment; and

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