



Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR  
February 28, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
Subject: Direction to Homeless Commission: Research Grants and Other Sources of Funding for the City's Homeless Services

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Homeless Commission to do research on grants and other sources of private funding to be used for the City's homeless services in light of anticipated federal funding cuts and anticipated increases in homelessness. Present a status report to the Council at the April 25, 2016 Council meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley currently receives about \$11.5 million in federal funding. In light the Trump administration's executive order directing federal agencies to take away money from sanctuary cities, the City should begin exploring alternative funding sources for homeless services.

More than half of the federal funding the City receives (\$6.3 million) is from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD funds the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) which supports many of our low-income community members who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness. Given the Trump administration's appointment to HUD, it is likely that funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Program will be cut and homelessness will increase drastically. The Trump administration will very likely cut funding to other federally funded components of the social safety net.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This item is line with the City's environmental goals and Climate Action Plan.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett, 510-981-7130

