



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 27, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Paul Buddenhagen, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services Department

Subject: Donation: Berkeley Homeless Fund

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to expend donations received to date in the amount of \$100,000 to the Berkeley Homeless Fund to support implementation of the STAIR Center as follows: \$50,000 for site improvements (such as landscaping, exterior furnishings, sun control, fence screening, entry elements, and hard surface improvements); \$10,000 for the installation of on-site laundry facilities; and \$40,000 in programmatic start-up costs (such as furniture, kitchen equipment, IT equipment, etc.) to be expended at the service providers' discretion and in compliance with contractual requirements.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

As of writing, the Homeless Fund has received \$100,000 in donations. Funds are deposited into budget code 411-3302-368-2315. The funding will be allocated from the Homeless Fund (Fund 411) for Pathways as follows: \$50,000 for beautification, \$10,000 for laundry, and \$40,000 for program costs. The appropriation for this funding will be included in the Second Amendment to the FY 2018 Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

The City anticipates entering into a contract for program services with Bay Area Community Services for the STAIR Center. The contract has been entered into the City's Contract Management System and assigned CMS No. PRX75.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Since its establishment, the Berkeley Homeless Fund has received \$100,000 in private donations to support major Council initiatives and priorities related to homelessness. Since the STAIR Center is one of Council's top homeless priorities, staff recommend that the funds be expended to support STAIR start-up needs as follows:

1. *Utilize \$50,000 for site beautification efforts.* On October 3, 2017, Council voted to "Include features to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the [Pathways site] is a pleasant and inviting environment with amenities such as trees and other foliage, planting beds, picnic tables, shade features, recreational space, an attractive entrance, and other simple but meaningful and aesthetically pleasing

features.” The City has identified an architectural firm who will help implement this directive.

2. *Utilize \$10,000 to partially offset the costs of creating an on-site laundry facility.* Having regular access to clean clothes and linens affirms the human dignity of the program’s residents and is essential to their success in finding housing and employment opportunities during their stay at the program.
3. *Utilize \$40,000 for programmatic start-up expenses.* Starting a low-barrier and service-rich homeless program from scratch incurs considerable start-up costs—everything from beds and linens, to staff furniture and IT equipment, to appropriate accommodations for pets, to kitchen equipment for meals, etc. Staff recommends setting \$40,000 from the Homeless Fund aside for the service operator (BACS) to utilize, at their discretion and expertise. This will free up existing funds to be used for contractual goals, like hiring more outreach staff and providing housing assistance for program residents.

BACKGROUND

On October 17, 2017, Council directed the City Manager to establish the Berkeley Homeless Fund, which created a vehicle to accept donations to be used “for major Council initiatives and priorities related to governmental purposes to provide facilities, programs and/or services to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or are in danger of becoming homeless.”¹ Since that time, the Fund has received \$100,000 in private donations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

On October 17, 2017, Council directed the City Manager to establish the Berkeley Homeless Fund, which would accept private donations to support the city’s ongoing efforts to address homelessness. City Council stipulated that Homeless Fund revenue be used for major Council priorities; currently the Pathways project is a major Council priority to address homelessness. These gifts are exempt from the requirement that Council adopt a resolution to accept the donation, but do require that Council direct the expenditure of funds.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Peter Radu, Homeless Services Coordinator, HHCS, (510) 981-5435.

¹ See https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2017/10_Oct/Documents/10-17_Annotated.aspx