



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 30, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services
 Subject: Contract No. 32100178 Amendment: California Mental Health Services Authority Help@Hand Participation Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute an Amendment to Contract No. 32100178 for the Help@Hand Participation Agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) to increase the amount of local project funds by \$47,999 for a total amount not to exceed \$400,915 through June 30, 2024, and any amendments.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding in the amount of \$47,999 from Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) revenue received from the State of California will be available in the FY2022 budget through the Annual Appropriations Ordinance (AAO) in the ERMA GL code: 315-51-503-526-2020-000-451-636110. The City previously committed \$352,916 from the same source to this project.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City receives State Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations (INN) funds on an annual basis that are to be utilized on short term pilot projects that increase learning in the Mental Health field. Help@Hand is a Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations (INN) funded multi-county collaborative project which provides broad public access to mental health applications.

In the Help@Hand Project, ten counties (and Berkeley, as an MHSA jurisdiction) have come together through the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to fund free access to mental health technology applications (Apps) for individuals who live, work, or go to school in those counties.

In November 2021, a Help@Hand marketing campaign was launched and free access to the HeadSpace and MyStrength Apps became locally available. The total funds that need to be allocated to CalMHSA through the end of the project are now estimated to be higher than originally anticipated. Therefore, the execution of the Help@Hand

Participation Agreement Amendment is required in order to allocate an additional \$47,999 to CalMHSA. Funding will be allocated from the remaining local project funds to cover the additional costs through the end of the project.

BACKGROUND

State of California MHSA funds are provided to mental health jurisdictions to transform the mental health system. One of the five funding components of MHSA is Innovations (INN). The INN component is comprised of annually recurring funds that are to be utilized to implement short-term pilot projects that contribute new learning in the mental health field. To utilize funds a stakeholder informed, locally approved plan is required.

In June 26 2018, per Resolution No. 68,493 –N.S., City Council approved the MHSA INN Technology Suite Project Plan, which has since been renamed, “Help@Hand”. This project allocates \$462,916 of INN funds to make mental health technology apps locally accessible in Berkeley. With Resolution 69,514-NS, the City Council approved entering into a Participation Agreement with CalMHSA and allocated \$352,916 in MHSA INN funds to participate in this project. The remaining amount of funds \$110,000, has been kept at the City level. A portion of the remaining funds has been used on project coordination services from Resource Development Associates. An evaluation conducted by Hatchuel, Tabernik and Associates will also be provided through these project funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

As project costs were higher than originally anticipated a Help@Hand Participation Agreement Amendment is needed in order to allocate the additional funds to CalMHSA. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased isolation and limited access to mental health resources for many Berkeley residents. Making these mental health applications available to the community is an innovative approach that will provide individuals with access to mental health resources, information, and supports at this difficult time.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could refuse to add funds to the project at this point, which could limit or reduce community access to these applications. This action is not recommended because it is not consistent with the City’s MHSA Innovations Plan or Council’s previous direction.

CONTACT PERSON

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

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT FOR
HELP@HAND WITH THE CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the City's Department of Health, Housing & Community Services, Mental Health Division, currently receives Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations (INN) funds on an annual basis for short term projects that will increase learning in the mental health field through strategies that will either improve the access, quality, or outcomes of services, and/or promote community collaborations; and

WHEREAS, in order to utilize MHSA INN funds, the Mental Health Division must have a stakeholder informed, locally approved plan in place; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 68,493-N.S., the City Council authorized the City Manager to approve the MHSA INN Technology Suite Project Plan to implement technology-based mental health services and supports in Berkeley utilizing \$462,916 by June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the MHSA INN Technology Suite project is part of a multi-county collaborative that utilizes a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), as the fiduciary intermediary for the project; and

WHEREAS, the multi-county collaborative renamed the Technology Suite project to the "Help@Hand" project; and

WHEREAS, in order to allocate funds to the fiscal intermediary to participate in the multi-county collaborative, the City of Berkeley was required to enter into a Participation Agreement with CalMHSA; and

WHEREAS, per Resolution No. 69,514-N.S., the City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a Participation Agreement with CalMHSA and to extend the project to June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Participation Agreement allocated \$352,916 of Help@Hand project funds to CalMHSA and the remaining \$110,000 project funds were kept locally; and

WHEREAS, project costs are estimated to be higher than originally estimated and an additional amount of \$47,999 of local project funds will be required to be allocated to CalMHSA through the end of the project; and

WHEREAS, in order to allocate additional funds to CalMHSA, the City must execute a revised Help@Hand Participation Amendment; and

WHEREAS, funding will be made available in the FY2022 budget through the AAO in the MHSA Fund Budget code: 315-51-503-526-2020-000-451-636110.

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 an Amendment to Contract No. 32100178 for the Help@Hand Participation Agreement and any amendments with CalMHSA to increase the amount by \$47,999, for a total amount not to exceed \$400,915 through June 30, 2024.