



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: Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an expenditure contract and any amendments or extensions with the Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED) in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for this contract in the amount of \$50,000 is available in FY 2022 budget in the General Fund (Account: 011-51-506-555-0000-000-451-636110-). Additionally, \$50,000 annually will also be included in the Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 budgets.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

This contract provides financial support to NEED by reimbursing it for needle exchange services, associated supplies and equipment up to \$50,000 annually for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. These services are related to reducing the rate of HIV/ HCV infections through a harm reduction model.

BACKGROUND

Berkeley Public Health Division has a longstanding partnership with NEED, providing funding for needle exchange services in the City of Berkeley. NEED has been providing harm reduction services in the City of Berkeley since its inception in 1990, and has operated for nearly 31 years. NEED's mission is to reduce the harmful consequences of criminalized substance use, including fatal overdose and transmission of HIV, hepatitis C, and other preventable diseases through syringe sharing and other risky practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The provision of this needle exchange program also works towards decreasing needle waste throughout the City through actively promoting the proper disposal of used syringes.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

NEED offers new syringes, safer sex supplies, sharps disposal containers, and other health supplies; safely disposes of used syringes; equips community members with the opioid overdose reversal medication naloxone; and connects people who use drugs with other service providers. NEED has expanded their services during the COVID-19 pandemic to include distribution of masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer. NEED contracts with the City to provide these essential public health services free of charge to all members of the community.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could discontinue its long-standing support of NEED's needle exchange program. Staff recommend continuing the support for this program because it provides an essential service for under-served populations.

CONTACT PERSON

Janice Chin, Public Health Division Manager, HHCS, (510) 981-5212

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT: NEEDLE EXCHANGE EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION

WHEREAS, Berkeley Public Health Division has a longstanding partnership with Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED), providing funding for needle exchange services; and

WHEREAS, NEED has been providing needle exchange services in the City of Berkeley since 1990 to reduce the harmful consequences of criminalized substance use, including fatal overdose and transmission of HIV, hepatitis C, and other preventable diseases through syringe sharing and other risky practice; and

WHEREAS, BFC offers their services free of charge to their clients, provided by volunteer staff, to under-served populations; and

WHEREAS, BFC's services complement those provided by the City and supports public health goals of improving the health and well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the FY22 budget in General Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute an expenditure contract and any amendments or extensions with the Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED) in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 (\$50,000 annually) for the purpose of continuing needle exchange services within the City of Berkeley; ERMA GL Account: 011-51-506-555-0000-000-451-636110. A record signature copy of said contract to be on file in the office of the City Clerk.