

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND  
03 FEB -5 PM 4:13

**To:** Office of the City Manager  
**Attn:** Robert C. Bobb  
**From:** Department of Human Services  
**Date:** February 18, 2003  
**Re:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT (CSD) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$105,279 FOR THE OAKLAND COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2003

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**SUMMARY**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept a total of \$105,279 from the State of California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD), Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds to fund the City of Oakland Community Action Agency.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Acceptance of this grant would have no fiscal impact on the General Fund. The Adopted Budget includes this grant, which is appropriated in Fund 2159, Project G157310. No local match is required for the grant and there is no negative fiscal impact on the City's General Fund as all associated overhead charges are paid by the grant.

**BACKGROUND**

Community Action Agencies were born at the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The purpose of this statute was to eliminate the causes and consequences of poverty in the United States. The Act established a federal Office of Economic Opportunity, formed state Economic Opportunity Offices, and created the new community based agencies called Community Action Agencies.

Since 1971, the City of Oakland has received funding from Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and predecessor funding sources to administer Community Action Agency (CAA) programs and services for low-income residents in Oakland. Community Action programs and services are designed to improve the quality of life for low-income residents through education, job training, life skills training, mentoring, health care and other services. Grant award amounts have ranged from \$1.3 million to a low of \$420,000 per year. The CSBG allocation for calendar year 2002 was \$805,980. CSBG funds are used to leverage other funds for programs and services that are designed to alleviate poverty in Oakland and to assist low-income residents in achieving self-sufficiency.

CAA applied for and received other funding as a result of leveraged use of these funds, including the \$2 million Welfare-to-Work grant secured from the Department of Labor. In 2001, CAA

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secured matching funds for Project Choice, a program designed to provide intensive case management, employment training and housing assistance to young adult ex-offenders. In 2002, CAA participated in a request for federal funding to expand the Project Choice program in Oakland; the City of Oakland received an additional \$1 million.

### **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

Community Action Agencies were formed to address the overwhelming impact of poverty on urban and rural communities. The funding can be utilized for any program that will better the quality of life for low-income residents. CSBG regulations stipulate that: "funds may be used to support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals to remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency" among other activities.

The City of Oakland has several designated low-income districts. These districts are the primary target of CAA funding, including: West Oakland, Central Oakland and Chinatown, portions of Central East Oakland, the San Antonio District, Fruitvale, Elmhurst and North Oakland. Poverty rates in Oakland have continued to increase, from 68,781 individuals in 1990 to 76,489 in 2000 (2000 Census Statistics). The current economic situation – severe local, state and federal budget cuts primarily in human services – make it a particularly dire time for the poorest of Oakland's citizens.

In addition, although CalWORKS caseloads have shown a steady reduction, there is still a significant number of families that receive necessary support through the programs available in Oakland: 20,553 as of June 2000. Low-income individuals and families are also confronted with sky-rocketing rents and ineffective Section 8 vouchers in a housing market that runs at almost 100% capacity. Many are forced to double-up with family or friends or to look for temporary shelter at a homeless program.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Acceptance of the year 2003 CSBG grant will enable the CAA to continue providing educational, job training, life skills training, mentoring, and other support services for Oakland's low-income residents, young adult parolees and senior citizens. The 2003 CSBG allocation can then be leveraged to support ongoing support services for CalWORKS recipients who are currently facing the "time-out" clock for benefits, as well as leveraging additional resources for other programs.

The Community Action Agency Administering Board oversees administration and program development activities for the City of Oakland. CAA funds are to be used for administrative support such as grant writing to expand resource development for programs and services that will build on existing efforts.

Funds will also be used to provide support services to low-income parents and CalWORKS recipients participating in the Welfare-to-Work job training program. The Welfare-to-Work job training program is funded by a grant from the Department of Labor in the amount of \$2 million dollars to provide job training and support services to 200 low-income parents over a two year period of time. This program requires participants to be in a work activity prior to receiving job training services. CSBG funds will be used to provide stipends to participants engaged in work related activities not covered by the grant. Childcare assistance, bus passes, and other support services will also be provided as needed.

CSBG funds will also be used to support programs such as Project Choice, which assists young adult ex-offenders who have recently been paroled back into the community to become active, responsible young men and women. CAA funding has also supported programs such as ASSETS, an employment and training program for low-income seniors.

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

The impact of CSBG funding for the City of Oakland will include several positive economic and social equity benefits. Many of the programs funded through the CAA will provide jobs or job training, support services for disadvantaged populations, and direct benefits to specific Oakland neighborhoods.

One of the three employment-related programs funded by CAA is ASSETS, an employment, training and placement service for low-income seniors. ASSETS trains and places seniors in appropriate employment, based on their skill-set and work experience. All seniors who are supported through CAA funding are Oakland residents, and they all receive a minimum of \$7.00 per hour.

Project Choice, a collaborative program that is supported by the CAA and the West Oakland Community Street Outreach Fund, works with young adult parolees as they are released from prison. The goal of the program is to prevent recidivism and to support these young adults in becoming productive members of society. The program offers intensive case management, job training and job placement, and legal and housing assistance. Specific "hotspot" neighborhoods in Oakland are being targeted for more intensive outreach, including the neighborhoods surrounding three high schools: McClymonds, Castlemont, and Fremont.

As part of a broader approach to increased crime and violence in the Oakland area, CAA is also targeting substance abuse issues by gathering providers and advocates to discuss new strategies and approaches for the City. This policy and planning effort is a collaboration of many City and County offices, non-profits, and committed citizens.

CAA has sponsored the CEDA Thanksgiving Dinner for several years, as well as the homeless food program. These programs offer food and nutrition support to some of the neediest individuals in Oakland. The homeless food program is offered in various neighborhoods in Oakland.

The Welfare-to-Work job training program will support several low-income families by offering them job skills training as well as internships and job placement with stipends available of \$7.00 per hour. The program also offers support services such as case management, transportation and housing assistance, and childcare referrals. The CAA program has no known environmental impacts.

#### **DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

The program has no negative impact on disability and senior access. Both senior citizens and clients who are disabled are able to gain access for services.

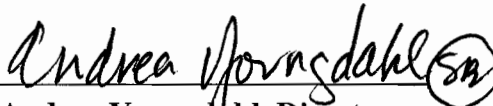
#### **RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept a \$105,279 grant from the State of California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) to fund the Oakland Community Action Agency (CAA) for the period of January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003. This will enable CAA to continue its efforts to minimize the effects of poverty in the City of Oakland. At this time, because of delays at the State CSD, the City has been allocated only 53 days of funding for year 2003. The remaining 312 days of funding for year 2003 will be forthcoming in the next few months.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

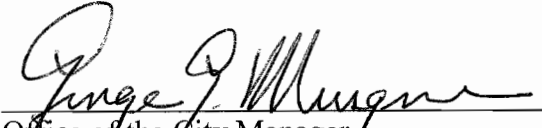
It is requested that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept \$105,279 in grant funds from the State of California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) to fund the Oakland Community Action Agency (CAA) for the period of January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003; and that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager or his designee as agent for the City to negotiate and execute agreements with service providers for the purpose of providing services to eligible clients in the City of Oakland, and to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, modifications, payment requests, terminations and related actions which may be necessary; and that the City Council appoints the City Manager or his designee as agent of the City to accept and appropriate said grant and any additional funding that may become available.

Respectfully submitted,

  
**Andrea Youngdahl, Director**  
**Department of Human Services**

Prepared by:  
Desirae Chambers-Docks, Manager  
Community Action Agency

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
CITY COUNCIL:

  
Office of the City Manager

**OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
**RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.**

*A. Jordan*

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND  
03 FEB -5 PM 4:1

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT (CSD) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$105,279 FOR THE OAKLAND COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2003**

WHEREAS, the State of California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has made available Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds for year 2003; and

WHEREAS, the State of California Department of Community Services and Development has offered the Community Services Block Grant to the Oakland Community Action Agency (CAA) through Contract Number 03F-4339; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland, on behalf of the Oakland CAA, is willing to apply for, accept and appropriate the aforementioned Grant in the amount of \$105,279, and offset the same amount of revenue, for the Program Year January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003, under provisions of the Community Services Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, the grantor pays all central services overhead costs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the Department of Aging, Health and Human Services is now referred to as the Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used by the Oakland CAA to provide program administrative support and direct services to Oakland's low-income citizens; and

WHEREAS, services provided will be in accordance with CSD subcontractor provisions, regulations, and guidelines for eligible activities under the Community Services Block Grant; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Manager of the City of Oakland is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate and execute a contract with CSD to accept CSBG grant funds and offsetting revenue in the amount of \$105,279 for the purpose described above for program year 2003; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager or his designee as agent for the City to negotiate and execute agreements with service providers for the purpose of providing services to eligible clients in the City of Oakland, and to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, modifications, payment requests, terminations and related actions which may be necessary; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council appoints the City Manager or his designee as agent of the City to accept and appropriate said grant and any additional funding that may become available.

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ORA/COUNCIL  
FEB 18 2003

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, WAN and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

CEDA FLOYD  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California

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