



# AGENDA REPORT

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**TO:** Edward D. Reiskin  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Sara Bedford  
Director, Human Services

**SUBJECT:** City of Emeryville Funding for Family  
Front Door & Winter Shelter FY 2021-  
22

**DATE:** August 23, 2021

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City Administrator Approval 

Date: September 7, 2021

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff Recommends That City Council Adopt A Resolution To:**

- 1) Accept And Appropriate Funds From The City Of Emeryville In An Amount Not To Exceed \$55,000 To Support Emergency Shelter Operations For July 1, 2021 Through June 30, 2022, And Authorize An Agreement For Receipt Of Said Funds; And**
- 2) Award Grant Agreements To: 1) Cornerstone Community Development Corporation, Dba Building Futures For Women And Children In An Amount Not To Exceed \$25,000 To Operate The Family Front Door; And 2) The Society Of Saint Vincent De Paul In An Amount Not To Exceed \$30,000 To Provide Emergency Shelter For Single Adults; And**
- 3) Accept And Appropriate Additional Funds That Become Available From The City Of Emeryville, For The Same Purposes, Within The Grant Term Of July 1, 2021 Through June 30, 2022 And Authorize The City Administrator To Amend The Grant Agreements To Adjust The Grant Amounts.**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Adoption of the proposed resolution would allow the City Administrator to accept and allocate funds from the City of Emeryville, and enter into grant agreements with: 1) Cornerstone Community Development Corporation, dba Building Futures for Women and Children (BFWC) in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to operate the North County Family Housing Resource Center, the Family Front Door (FFD); and 2) the Society Of Saint Vincent De Paul (SVdP) in an amount up to \$30,000 to support operation of their year-round emergency shelter.

Furthermore, if additional funding becomes available from the City of Emeryville, for the same purposes, within the fiscal year (FY) 2021–22 grant term, the proposed resolution allows the City Administrator to accept and appropriate said funds and amend the grant agreements to adjust the grant amount without returning to Council.

City Council  
September 21, 2021

## **BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

### **Family Front Door**

Coordinated Entry is a standardized method to connect people experiencing homelessness to the resources available in the community. Like the triage desk in an emergency room, a Coordinated Entry System (CES) assesses the conditions of people who are in need and prioritizes them for assistance. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), local funders (such as the Cities of Oakland and Emeryville, the Alameda County Department of Housing and Community Development, and Alameda County Health Care Services Agency) require that most dedicated homeless resources be accessed through Coordinated Entry.

The Family Front Door (FFD) has been the CES for homeless families in North County since 2015. BFWC and East Oakland Community Project (EOCP) were the sub-contractors for this project up until EOCP transferred-out in FY 2020-21. EOCP continues to operate emergency and transitional housing for families and works closely with the FFD. The City of Emeryville provides a small amount of funding each year to the FFD to cover the costs associated with assisting a small number of Emeryville families who may utilize the services.

### **SVdP Emergency Shelter**

SVdP operates a year-round emergency shelter located at 675 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in West Oakland. The shelter provides at least 65 beds on any given night and is accessible to participants through a referral process from various City of Oakland and Emeryville agencies, on a first-come-first-served basis. SVdP operated with a reduced number of beds in FY 2020-21 (down from 100 beds per night to 65) and will continue to do so in FY 2021-22 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

## **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

### *Singles*

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Count and Survey from January 2019 estimates that there are 4,071 people experiencing homelessness in Oakland. This represents an increase of 1,310 individuals (47 percent) from 2017.

In 2019, 3,210 individuals experiencing homelessness were unsheltered, including 1,320 individuals (32 percent) living in tents, 727 (18 percent) living in a car or van, 703 (17 percent) in an RV, and 420 (10 percent) living on the street or outdoors. This represents a 63 percent increase in unsheltered homelessness since 2017.

Eight-hundred and sixty-five (865) individuals (21 percent) are chronically homeless, and 38 percent have one or more disabling conditions. HUD defines a disabling condition as a developmental disability, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), or a long-term physical or mental impairment that impacts a person's ability to live independently but could be improved with stable housing.

Emeryville has allocated \$30,000 to support SVdP's Emergency Shelter program. These funds support general shelter operations as well as supporting five beds which are prioritized for clients coming from Emeryville. If the beds are not needed by Emeryville clients, they are filled

with people from Oakland. Beds at SVdP are available on a referral and a walk in, first come first served basis. Once an individual has a bed at the shelter they can keep that bed for as long as needed, there is no limit to the length of stay.

### *Families*

According to the January 2021 report *Centering Racial Equity in Homeless System Design* from the Oakland-Berkeley-Alameda County Continuum of Care, families with minor children are undercounted in the PIT count. Using PIT data as a foundation, the report estimates there are approximately 499 families with children experiencing homelessness in Oakland every year. Of these, 25 percent are chronically homeless. Homeless families with minor children are disproportionately Black (55 percent) and Native American (5 percent) as compared with the general population of Alameda County (11 percent and one percent respectively).

The City of Emeryville has allocated \$25,000 to support the operation of the FFD. The FFD assesses and prioritizes families for a range of interventions and services including:

- Access to emergency shelter and transitional housing
- Housing assistance, including referrals to permanent supportive and rapid rehousing
- Linkages to community and mainstream resources
- Linkages to child care resources
- Linkages to primary dental medical, and mental health services
- Assistance with obtaining benefits

The Citywide priority of **housing, economic and cultural security** is advanced by this policy action. If the City of Oakland does not accept these funds, both the SVdP Shelter and the FFD will lose crucial operating funds that support homeless clients of both Emeryville and Oakland.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The proposed resolution authorizes the acceptance, appropriation, and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$55,000 from the City of Emeryville for the FFD. This funding will be appropriated into Fund 2294 Project 1003911, Org 78411, Expense 54912, Task 1-DEFAULT, Award 23297.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST**

No outreach was deemed necessary for the proposed policy action beyond the standard City Council noticing procedures.

### **COORDINATION**

Coordination has occurred between the Human Services Department (HSD), Office of the City Attorney and Budget Bureau in the preparation of this report and resolution.

## **PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

### *BFWC - FFD program:*

In FY 2020-21, 1,105 families called FFD for assistance, and 279 met the HUD eligibility criteria of being literally homeless – staying in a shelter or a place not meant for human habitation. These families completed a coordinated entry assessment with the FFD. Of these eligible families, 193 were matched to resources including shelter, rapid rehousing (short-term rental subsidies and services), transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or one-time assistance.

### *SVdP - Shelter Program:*

In FY 2020-21, SVdP's emergency shelter in West Oakland reduced the maximum occupancy from 100 single adults to maximum of 65 due to COVID-19. COVID-19 safety was the primary work of the Shelter staff which included regular surveillance testing, COVID education to clients and staff, as well as vaccination events in partnership with Alameda County Healthcare for the Homeless programs. A total of 234 unduplicated individuals utilized SVdP's shelter during FY 2020-21, with 4 households exited to Permanent Housing, and 118 to Transitional Housing.

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** As noted in the report, all funds identified in this report are for the purpose of providing housing and services to the homeless to eliminate and prevent homelessness. Such outcomes are achieved through rapid rehousing assistance, homelessness prevention, transitional housing, shelter services, homeless encampment services, and outreach.

***Environmental:*** The provision of housing for at-risk and homeless persons is intended to address the environmental degradation caused by homeless families and individuals precariously housed or living on the streets.

***Race & Equity:*** In Oakland, the drivers of homelessness fall most squarely on the backs of the African American community who, due to long standing structurally racist practices such as red lining and employment discrimination, are most vulnerable to losing their homes. Ending homelessness in Oakland must be defined by what works for African Americans first and foremost in order to reduce the racial disparities. These drivers of homelessness include:

- Structural racism
- Insufficient controls on the rental housing market that create vulnerability and housing instability for tenants
- Insufficient housing units that are affordable to households with the lowest incomes, including particularly those whose incomes are below 20 percent of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Systematic barriers that often prevent residents who are returning home from incarceration from living with family members and/or accessing both public and private rental housing and employment opportunities
- Inadequate pay and benefits for many of the jobs that are available in the community, and insufficient access to quality employment opportunities that pay wages that meet the cost of housing

One of the goals of Oakland's Permanent Access to Housing (PATH) Plan is to eliminate racial disparities in the rates at which people experience homelessness, and in exits to stable housing. The City utilizes data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to track client demographics and outcomes.

Black or African American Oakland residents are disproportionately over-represented in the homeless population. According to the most recent PIT Count in 2019, 70 percent of the population experiencing homelessness in Oakland identifies as Black or African American; however, this demographic is only 24 percent of the general population.

Of the 234 individuals who used the SVdP shelter, 142 individuals (60 percent) identified as Black or African American, 63 (27 percent) as White, and 11 (5 percent) as multiple races. In addition, 35 (15 percent) identified as Hispanic/Latino. 152 individuals (65 percent) had a physical or mental health condition; including 110 (47 percent) with a mental health problem, 69 (29 percent) with a physical disability, 52 (22 percent) with a chronic health condition, and 47 (20 percent) with alcohol and/or drug abuse.

Unfortunately, due to data limitations in this year of transition, demographic data is not available for all families who accessed the FFD in FY2020-21. Demographic data **is** available for the 106 people in 43 families who received rapid rehousing assistance. Of this population, 84 persons (79 percent) in 38 families identified as Black or African American, 16 persons (15 percent) in 9 families identified as multiple races, and 6 persons (6 percent) in 3 families identified as white. In addition, 8 persons (7.5 percent) in 7 families identified as Hispanic/Latino.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution To:

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For questions regarding this report, please contact Lara Tannenbaum, Manager, Community Housing Services Division, at 510-238-6187.

Respectfully submitted,



SARA BEDFORD

Director, Human Services Department

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Community Housing Services

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Community Housing Services