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**M E M O R A N D U M**

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**To:**           **The Honorable Barbara Lee, Mayor, City of Oakland**  
**Jestin Johnson, City Administrator**

**From:**       **Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.**  
*Christopher Townsend, President*  
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**Date:**       **September 3, 2025**

**Subject:**     **Federal Advocacy Successes with the City of Oakland**

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This memo provides a detailed overview of the numerous federal funding and legislative successes that Townsend Public Affairs has achieved in strong partnership with the City of Oakland over the course of the firm's 12 year legislative engagement.

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**FEDERAL FUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS**

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*TPA has worked with Congressional Members and the City of Oakland to secure over \$100 million in federal funding on behalf of the City's priority projects, including:*

<b>Federal Allocation/Grant</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Year</b>
Head Start Grant/Allocation	\$16,000,000	2016
Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Discretionary Grant/Allocation	\$15,000,000	2012
US Department of Transportation: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE): Reconnecting Oakland: Safe, Reliable, and Equitable Access	\$14,507,075	2021
Community Oriented Policing Services Grant/Allocation	\$10,700,000	2011
USDA Urban and Community Forestry Grant/Allocation: Equity through Urban Forestry	\$8,000,000	2023
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Program	\$7,782,240	2012
Community Oriented Policing Services Grant/Allocation	\$4,515,730	2013
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Program	\$4,268,112	2015
Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Domain Awareness Center	\$2,900,000	2013

Federal Budget Earmark: Broadway Bus and Pedestrian Safety Improvements	\$2,000,000	2022
Federal Budget Earmark: Lincoln Center Resilience Hub	\$2,000,000	2022
Port Security Grant/Allocation: Domain Awareness	\$2,000,000	2013
Community Oriented Policing Services Grant/Allocation	\$1,875,000	2014
Community Oriented Policing Services Grant/Allocation	\$1,875,000	2015
Federal Budget Earmark: Mental Health Resilience Project	\$1,230,000	2022
Federal Budget Earmark: Cyber Security Upgrades	\$963,000	2024
Federal Budget Earmark: Lake Merritt Water Quality	\$959,757	2024
Assistance to Firefighters Grant/Allocation	\$789,360	2011
Federal Budget Earmark: Coliseum Place Affordable Housing Project	\$750,000	2022
Federal Budget Earmark: Mental Health Resilience Project	\$734,000	2022
Federal Budget Earmark: Procedural Justice/Community Police Trust	\$646,000	2022
Assistance to Firefighters Grant/Allocation	\$471,249	2011
Federal Budget Earmark: Violence Prevention project	\$200,000	2022
Assistance to Firefighters Grant/Allocation	\$11,928	2012
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,178,451</b>	

## FEDERAL ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

*TPA has successfully drafted, amended, and partnered on numerous federal proposals such as:*

Legislative Issue	Description
<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b>	Coalition building played a critical role in securing success for The City of Oakland. In 2021, TPA supported the City of Oakland in obtaining \$14.5 million through the Department of Transportation's RAISE Grant program. However, due to circumstances beyond the city's control, there was a risk of forfeiting the funds because of a statutory obligation deadline. In response, TPA built a coalition of grant recipients facing similar challenges—spanning from Hawaii to South Carolina. Through coordinated advocacy efforts, the coalition successfully influenced the inclusion of language in the Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Appropriations bill to extend the obligation deadline. This provision was signed into law, enabling the city to fully implement its grant award.

<p><b>Affordable Housing</b></p>	<p>TPA engaged closely with Senator Feinstein’s staff on behalf of the City of Oakland to monitor and decipher a recent decision from HUD on affordable housing priorities for current and past residents. HUD had recently rejected a plan in San Francisco to open a new complex of affordable housing and implement a priority system that favored those who had lived in the neighborhood previously, thus preventing a major shift toward gentrification. When HUD rejected the plan on the grounds that it violated the Fair Housing Act, TPA worked closely with the Council President’s office and the California legislative delegation to determine whether similar prioritization plans implemented in Oakland might also violate the Fair Housing Act, and whether the City was therefore at risk of legal action. Fortunately, TPA was able to determine that the City’s plan contained a key and essential difference, allowing it to avoid the same assessment by HUD. In maintaining consistent lines of communication with stakeholders, TPA was able to mitigate risk to the City of Oakland and its residents of affordable housing, while also ensuring that key figures in affordable housing discussions were aware of Oakland’s important efforts in this arena.</p>
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p>TPA identified new federal funding sources for the Oakland Promise through the US Department of Education (US DOE). These funding programs focused on innovation in education and align with Oakland Promise priorities. TPA has facilitated multiple meetings between the Mayor and US DOE grant officials to discuss these programs. TPA continues to monitor the funding cycle, expected to open in 2017, and is staying in close communication with the Department of Education to identify additional opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Human Services</b></p>	<p>Partnering with the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Director of Human Services, the City’s legislative federal and state delegation and others, TPA secured over <b>\$16 million</b> in federal Head Start funding to provide comprehensive and full day early childhood learning experiences to 1,038 children and families throughout Oakland. This funding helped the City to provide high quality services for low-income children ages zero to five.</p> <p>TPA aggressively advocated for the continuation of federal funding for the Head Start program over a 14-month period. TPA arranged meetings for the Mayor to meet directly with Head Start Director, Dr. Blanca Enriquez in Washington DC, drafting a letter of support on behalf of the entire Oakland Congressional Delegation, securing support from the Governor, the East Bay legislative delegation and others, working closely with Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer, and Congresswoman Lee to collaborate efforts on the ground in Washington DC, and other efforts.</p>
<p><b>Human Trafficking</b></p>	<p>TPA worked with the City of Oakland and staff to advocate for efforts to combat human trafficking both legislatively and within federal agencies. The City had taken a support position for Senator Feinstein’s original bill, which was absorbed into S. 178. In Senator Feinstein’s original bill, TPA identified funding opportunities for the City, such as the Domestic Victims on Human Trafficking Demonstration Grant Program. Through coordination with the City and the City’s federal legislative delegation, S. 178 (Cornyn) was signed into law.</p>

<p><b>Promise Zones</b></p>	<p>TPA provided support and strategy to the City of Oakland on their Promise Zone application, and facilitated the City's engagement in the initiative. TPA updated the City with new information from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), both from webinars and direct conversations with senior HUD. TPA provided recommendations to the City of their application, including a sample application, the review of the final draft application, edits and insights into HUD priorities, and ensuring the application was well-positioned for success.</p>
<p><b>Public Safety</b></p>	<p>TPA leveraged relationships with the US Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency to secure additional time and keep funding in place for the City of Oakland's Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)- Domain Awareness Center (DAC) award of <b>\$2.9 million</b>. The City needed more time to advance the project and through TPA efforts, an extension was secured and the City did not have to return their original funding.</p> <p>TPA was heavily engaged in the Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing forum to represent the City of Oakland. The forum was focused on building trust within the City. This initiative was later incorporated into the COPS programmatic funding and additional DOJ funding opportunities.</p> <p>TPA helped coordinate a meeting with the strategic liaison between Oakland law enforcement and the US Department of Justice (DOJ) for the Oakland/Richmond Violence Reduction (VRN). As a newly designated VRN in 2015, the City preferred federal public safety training and technical assistance.</p> <p>TPA helped coordinate a meeting with the strategic liaison between Oakland law enforcement and the US Department of Justice (DOJ) for the Oakland/Richmond Violence Reduction (VRN). As a newly designated VRN in 2015, the City preferred federal public safety training and technical assistance.</p> <p>TPA worked with the City of Oakland to support the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) School Success Mentor Initiative following the President's call to action. Throughout the process, TPA provided updates on potential opportunities that could stem from the initiative. The City accepted the MBK challenge and worked with leading experts in youth and community development to design and implement cradle-to-college-and-career action plans.</p>
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<p><b>Sanctuary Cities</b></p>	<p>During and since the presidential election, TPA has monitored comments from President Trump on sanctuary cities. In particular, TPA investigated his campaign promise to “defund sanctuary cities” and researched what that could mean for Oakland in a practical sense. Prior to President Trump’s inauguration, TPA correctly predicted that his ability to withhold funding from sanctuary cities would be limited. When President Trump signed the Executive Order “Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States” on January 25, 2017, TPA analyzed the text and legal precedent, and immediately identified that funding restrictions would be limited to a small number of grants executed by only the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. In addition to this, TPA continued to keep in close contact with staffers from both departments as well as California congressional delegation to ensure a full scope of information was available to be passed on to Oakland. Through its close relationships with the executive and legislative branches, as well as experts in the field, TPA has identified the applicable sections of U.S. code that the administration may use to designate sanctuary cities in the absence of a definition in statute, which the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security could potentially base use to prohibit or rescind federal funding under their jurisdiction.</p> <p>The Executive Order mentioned above also instructed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to issue Declined Detainer Outcome Reports on a weekly basis, identifying sanctuary jurisdictions by the administration’s criteria. TPA continues to monitor all ICE Declined Detainer Outcome Reports on a weekly basis for mentions of Oakland and Alameda County, which could be a pretext for the administration restricting funding eligibility. TPA also monitored ongoing litigation against the administration challenging its legal authority to withhold funds from sanctuary cities.</p>
<p><b>Senior Citizens Services</b></p>	<p>When changes occurred to the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), this triggered a major funding challenge for the City of Oakland ASSETS Senior Employment Opportunities Program, which has helped provide jobs to 2,092 seniors over the last decade. TPA aggressively engaged with Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer to seek alternatives that allowed for continued funding of the ASSETS program as a sub-grantee of another national non-profit organization awarded Department of Labor SCSEP funding.</p>

<p><b>Unaccompanied Undocumented Children</b></p>	<p>TPA worked with the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), House Homeland Security Committee Members and their senior staff, and Congresswoman Barbara Lee's staff to secure funding for the City of Oakland. This funding allowed the City to handle the high number of unaccompanied undocumented children currently awaiting legal action in Oakland. Additionally, due to the President's initial comments regarding his potential executive action on this immigration policy, TPA swiftly worked with Congressional leadership and Administration officials to ensure that the City was involved in any initiatives that would create additional funding opportunities or other support mechanisms.</p>
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