CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Dan Lindheim
FROM: Department of Human Services
DATE: July 13, 2010

RE: **A Supplemental Report From The Department Of Human Services Oakland
        Community Action Partnership (OCAP) For Additional Information Requested
        At The April 13, 2010 Life Enrichment Committee To Address OCAP Program
        Impacts, Sustainability, and Low-Income Areas Served**

SUMMARY

This is a follow-up report to the previous Oakland Community Action Partnership (OCAP)
supplemental report presented to Life Enrichment Committee at its April 13, 2010 which was a
follow-up to the OCAP annual report originally submitted to the Life Enrichment Committee on
December 15, 2009. As captured in the minutes, this report responds to the Committee's request
for additional information on: 1) the impact and outcomes of OCAP's programs; 2) the
sustainability of OCAP funded programs; and 3) how low-income areas served are identified.

FISCAL IMPACT

This follow-up supplemental report is for informational purposes only.

BACKGROUND

Staff presented its annual Oakland Community Action Partnership (OCAP) report and a
resolution to the Life Enrichment Committee on December 15, 2009. The Committee bifurcated
the report by forwarding the time sensitive grant resolution to City Council and directing staff to
return to the committee with a supplemental report to provide additional information on: 1)
historical information on the change in poverty in Oakland; 2) the number of private versus
public community action agencies and their funding; 3) OCAP's strategic plan for administration
and funded programs; 4) breakdown of Oakland's Community Services Block Grant Stimulus
funds and the ratio of program overhead; and 5) how much money is allocated to administration
and how much to programs and suggestions for improving that ratio.

At the April 13, 2010 Life Enrichment Committee, the Committee directed staff to provide
additional information in a supplemental report on: 1) the impact of OCAP's programs; 2) the
sustainability of OCAP funded programs; and 3) how low-income areas served are identified.

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KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Oakland's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is administered through the Oakland Community Action Partnership Governing Board (City Council) and the Tripartite Administering Board. Unlike other funding governance structures, federal regulations mandate that a public "*entity shall administer the Community Services Block Grant program through a* ***tripartite board*** *that fully participates in the development, planning, implementation, and* evaluation of the program(s) to serve low-income communities" (Public Law 105-285, SEC. 676B). The Oakland Community Action Partnership's 15 member tripartite Administering Board is comprised of one-third community members who are democratically elected through the Community Development District Boards for a total of seven members (7); **five (5) City of Oakland elected officials or their designees: Mayor Ron Dellums, Councilmember Nancy Nadel (Dist. 3), Councilmember Ignacio De La Fuente (Dist. 5), Councilmember Larry Reid (Dist.7), and Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan (At Large);** and three (3) members who represent other groups and interests that serve Oakland's low-income community.

OCAP Program Impact

Out of the 76,489 (19.4%) of Oakland residents living at or below the federal poverty level, according to the 2000 Census, **OCAP provided services to 9,000 (12%) unduplicated Oakland low-income residents in 2009.** In addition, out of $718,454 in CSBG funding, $379,056 of these federal dollars were directly allocated to local agencies to help meet and address the needs identified in OCAP's State approved community needs assessment. The remaining funds also support OCAP's roles in key self sufficiency initiatives such as IDA, EITC, and Bank on Oakland. For example, through OCAP's "administrative" funds, which supported OCAP's staff participation, the Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign returned over $6 million back into the hands of Oakland's low-income residents during the 2009 tax season.

The types of data captured to assess OCAP program services and outcomes are determined by the federal and state authorizing agencies. The format includes capturing program service levels and outcome data such as job placements. It also provides qualitative, narrative data that is detailed below. The CSBG program does not require a formal evaluation and OCAP has not chosen to divert program dollars to an independent evaluation. However, OCAP is willing to explore low-cost ways to capture more outcome oriented data for its program services (e.g., job retention over time, wage increases). Moreover, OCAP will include more detailed service and outcome data in future annual reports to City Council.

One example is Sandy, a client with First Place Fund for Youth, who entered foster care at age 13 with her two older sisters when her mother passed away. After her emancipation from the foster care system, she was faced with the threat of becoming homeless. With the help of First Place Fund for Youth, she was able to secure housing and enroll in college in graphic design at San Francisco City College. Through the support and employment training from her program counselor, Sandy was also able to secure permanent employment with the San Francisco

Museum. OCAP funding helped support the First Place Fund for Youth Program that enabled Sandy to achieve these positive outcomes.

Another example of OCAP's impact can be seen through our partnership with the St. Mary's Center, that provides emergency support to homeless seniors such as Joseph. Joseph had been homeless for 4 ½ years because of severe depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). St. Mary's Center was able to help Joseph obtain Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and connect him to psychotherapy to address his trauma thereby allowing him, for the first time in years, to qualify and receive transitional housing assistance. As a result, he now has income and receives medical and mental health care services.

These are just a few of the personal testimonies that OCAP receives, as part of its reporting requirements about the personal impact Community Action has made in the lives of two of Oakland's most vulnerable populations, the youth and our seniors.

The California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD), which is the agency responsible for monitoring program impact, sustainability, and ensuring low-income eligibility guidelines are met, continues to render the City of Oakland Community Action Agency in full compliance with all aspects of its contract and federal governing regulations. In addition, as previously noted, the Oakland Community Action Partnership has been listed as one of the "Best Practices in Community Action" nationwide.

OCAP Program Sustainability

OCAP's overarching strategy is to focus available local, state, private, and federal resources on the goal of enabling low-income families and individuals to attain the skills, knowledge and motivation necessary to secure the opportunities needed to become fully self-sufficient. For thirty-nine years, the City of Oakland's Community Action Partnership has had a track record of supporting innovative program and services that continue to make a difference in the lives of thousands of Oaklanders.

- In 1971, the Community Action Agency brought Head Start to the City, thereby creating the department known as the Department of Human Services.

- In 1977, Community Action helped start the Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly (OPED).

- In 1979, Community Action served as an advocate to start the City's Multi-Senior Services Program (MSSP).

- In 2003, Community Action provided the local match to help secure a $1 million grant for Project Choice.

- In 2005, Community Action secured a $250,000 grant to increase Food Stamp outreach and enrollment above fifty-percent (50%).

OCAP's success in ensuring program sustainability lies in its ability to use its flexible funding to leverage its resources in collaboration with its partners. For Calendar year 2010, OCAP will leverage more than $2 million through its partnerships to help expand the availability of services provided to help Oakland's low-income families strive towards self-sufficiency. To ensure a program's success, OCAP is required to monitor and evaluate the programmatic and fiscal compliance of the agencies with OCAP contracts. The monitoring process allows OCAP to assure that programs and services are operated in accordance with the State approved Community Action Plan and as specified in each City approved contract.

Over the years, OCAP has and continues to fund many innovative and new programs that have been sustained such as Project Choice's Re-Entry Program and St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen of Champions Culinary program; however, the public recognition for OCAP seeding such projects often time goes unacknowledged as the program or project expands and is no longer directly receiving CSBG funding.

OCAP Low-Income Areas Served

The Federal and State funding regulations do not require Community Services Block Grant funds to track client geographic demographics as a part of its eligibility criteria. Instead, the regulation utilizes the federal poverty level and Oakland residency as its threshold for accessing services. However, as part of the Oakland's Community Action Partnerships Request for Proposal process, all applicants are required to identify their primary service areas as categorized by the following: Citywide, North Oakland, West Oakland, Downtown, San Antonio, Fruitvale, Elmhurst, Central East Oakland, and Other which must be specified by applicant.

For calendar years 2010-1011, the following services are geographically provided as follows:

Provider	Primary Focus Area
OCAP's Earned Income Tax Credit Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites	Citywide
OCAP's Families Building Wealth IDA Program	Citywide
OCAP's Thanksgiving Dinner	Citywide
OCAP's Walk to End Poverty	Citywide
Catholic Charities Oakland Housing Plus	Citywide
Bay Area Legal Aid Oakland Legal Safety Net Project	Citywide
Men of Valor Academy Pathways out of Poverty	Citywide
Covenant House California Homeless Youth Job Training/Employment	Citywide
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates Home Preservation	Citywide
St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen of Champions	Citywide
St. Mary's Center Senior Homeless Program	West Oakland, Downtown
Mandela MarketPlace Food Enterprise Incubator	West Oakland

The OCAP Board has agreed, however, that tracking clients served by zip code and/or address would be useful in ensuring an equitable distribution of services to all Oakland residents and gauging client program utilization.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The Oakland Community Action Board, at its May 10, 2010 Administering Board meeting, recommended implementing the following CSBG program enhancements in response to the feedback/input it has received from the Governing Board (City Council):

1)   Hold a joint meeting/retreat with Governing Board (City Council) and OCAP Administering Board once a year to ensure alignment of its strategic plan with overall city goals;

2)   Modify OCAP's grantee bi-annual progress report to track clients/areas served by zip code;

3)   Explore using a system for tracking program performance and client outcome specific data over a longer time period (e.g. length employment) for inclusion into annual OCAP City Council Report;

4)   Modify OCAP's 2012-2013 Request for Proposal (RFP) process to include a broader process that includes identifying price points/cost per unit versus national averages and expand the rubric process to rank quality of programs, set better goals, and ensure stronger program outcomes;

5)   Review current OCAP funding allocations to explore increasing overall community impact (ex. Thanksgiving Dinner, Walk to End Poverty, etc...); and

6)   Work to improve CSBG administration/program funding ratio.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: OCAP programs and services directly impact the employability of Oakland's low-income residents by providing access to education, training, and job opportunities designed to help families achieve an increased level of self-sufficiency.

Environmental: The expansion of green job training and Oakland's pending State weatherization funding will directly contribute to decreasing Oakland's overall carbon footprint.

Social Equity: OCAP continues to focus its efforts to support the City goal of social equity for all of Oakland's low-income residents. OCAP will continue to collaborate and partner with other anti-poverty fighting programs to ensure that all efforts to eliminate poverty and its effects on the Oakland community are supported and that a sustainable infrastructure is in place to help low-income families move toward a higher level of self- sufficiency.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

The Oakland Community Action Partnership programs and services are accessible to persons with disabilities and senior citizens.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The Department of Human Services Oakland Community Action Partnership requests that the City Council accept this supplemental informational report.

Respectfully submitted,
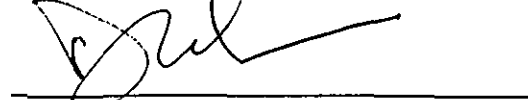
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APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE:

Office of the City Administrator

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