

City of Alameda · California



December 5, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Scott Means, President
Social Service Human Relations Board

Subject: Social Services Human Services Relations Board
FY 2024-25 CDBG Public Services Needs Statement

The Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB) is responsible for assessing the community's social and human service needs and establishes strategies to address those needs. In 1997, the City Council entrusted SSHRB with participating in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process by examining and discussing the importance of residents' public service needs and forwarding recommendations to Council on the CDBG Non-Housing Public Service funding. This letter represents SSRHB's recommendations as it relates to the community's priority needs and public service support in the City of Alameda.

At the SSHRB meeting on October 26, 2023, City staff presented the priorities that were identified in the CDBG Five-Year Consolidated Plan, including: preserving and increasing affordable housing, reducing housing discrimination, preventing and addressing homelessness, and addressing non-housing community development needs (such as neighborhood improvements, public services, accessibility improvements, and economic development).

Staff invited 37 non-profit organizations active in Alameda to comment on the community's current needs. SSHRB received written and/or verbal comments from 17 community service providers and organizations.

SSHRB members, with consideration from the service providers voted 6-0 to recommend the following priority areas, and are strongly emphasizing that racial equity concerns are at the core of many of these issues:

- Mental Health and crisis intervention
- Food Security
 - Emphasis on nutrition and health
 - Accessibility to healthier food options
- Housing
 - Increase housing affordability and supply
- Race & Equity Lens and Response
- Childcare for Low-Income Families
- Advocacy & Coordination

- Wraparound services to support marginalized and underserved communities
- Violence, crime prevention and safety
- Social connectedness
 - Community building, diversity and inclusivity

The wage and cost of living gap has led to many disparities within the City of Alameda. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, income inequality continues to worsen throughout the state and income alone is not enough to meet basic needs. This is why it is imperative to prioritize these needs to ensure our most vulnerable communities have an opportunity to thrive. SSHRB recommends that the City Council make policy and funding decisions that prioritize the needs of the people that have been identified in this needs statement letter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Scott Means
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Scott Means, President
Social Service Human Relations Board