



Participatory Budgeting (PB) Cycle 7 Proposal Decision

Background

PB was put on hold as of March 2020. The Cycle 7 PB vote did not occur as planned given the high reliance on in-person outreach efforts for community engagement.

As of January 2021, the PB Steering Committee is considering how to proceed with Cycle 7 voting. They will be reviewing the Cycle 7 proposals at the March Steering Committee meeting and deciding on the next steps, including which proposals to include in the Cycle 7 vote given the decrease in allocated program funds. A request was made to reach out to all budget delegates to ask if they would like to update their proposal, have it considered in Cycle 8, or withdraw it. The PBSC will use this information to inform their decision-making.

Instructions

Please complete the form indicating your preference in moving forward with your proposal and submit it by February 8, 2021.

Please email Felicia.Flores@cityofvallejo.net with any questions.

Proposal Name: Basic Need Resources & Services for Homeless

Budget Delegates: Mark Carter, Laurene Mezzacappa, Dem Stall-Nash

Implementing Partner: Fighting Back Partnership

Our team would like to:

- Update our proposal and submit it by March 5th for consideration in Cycle 7
- Have our proposal be considered for Cycle 8
- Withdraw our proposal

Comments

Project Title

Basic Need Resources & Services for Homeless

Total Budget

\$75000

Name

Mark Carter

Deme Stall-Nash

Laurene Mezzacappa

Email

[REDACTED]

Type of project

Service

Detailed Project Description

Fighting Back Partnership (FBP), social services and community development organization, provides support services to unhoused and at-risk low-income clients in Vallejo. To begin to mitigate and prevent homelessness, we must strengthen our ability to avoid it in the first place through programs for those at-risk.

The project intent is purposeful in that it will provide unhoused and at-risk clients with primary (essential) needs resources and provide a bridge to supportive services. Through FBP's community support, this effort by distributing necessary need materials and sharing information with clients on available services and programs that provide sustainable paths to personal enhancement; life skills training, medical care, job opportunities, and going from homeless to self-sufficiency.

Research shows the most challenging unmet need for homeless clients is access to information and resources. In mutual understanding with faith-based organizations and nonprofits, Fighting Back Partnership provides interventions or redirects the client to appropriate service locations. Interventions through FBP give clients an identifiable landmark for help and serve as the pipeline to the Vallejo Navigation Center. The services being offered range from homeless prevention, shelter and housing programs, mental or substance abuse programs, health care, and self-sufficiency plans and programs.

Project Outcomes:

- Distribute basic need materials to homeless neighbors
- Increase awareness on available service interventions
- Establish and nurture peer-to-peer relationships to promote trust
- Provide no-cost transportation to help homeless neighbors get to intervention services
- Improve clients access to trained professionals at the Navigation Center to plan and deliver services that meet the needs for specific homeless client
- Promote and support clients to become more self-sufficient and take steps toward ending homelessness

Why is this project needed

The Bay Area has one of the largest and least sheltered homeless populations in the country. Although this is one of the most prosperous regions in the world, every night thousands of people sleep on our streets. The Bay Area has experienced an increase in unhoused veterans, seniors, children, individuals, and families and many at imminent risk of homelessness with no other place to go.

[1] The Solano County homeless Census and Survey conducted in 2019 revealed 19% of homeless are sheltered while 81% live unsheltered on the streets as identified in the following subcategories:

- 79% are chronically homeless
- 80% are veterans
- 10% are families with children
- 83% are transitional-age youth
- 31% are aged 51 or older

This project will directly impact the community and homeless neighbors by providing basic needs and targeted services. Older adults, disabled, and veterans are at a greater risk of homelessness than at any time in recent history. Simultaneously, housing is becoming more unaffordable as the costs of necessities like health care are rising, leaving older adults at risk of poverty and homelessness.

The project's primary outcome is to steer clients to Vallejo's Navigation Center for assessment by case managers and medical evaluators who can prescribe systematic interventions targeting client deficiencies and create personalized service plans for clients.

The project requires outreach to make a reasonable effort to interact with an average of 10-15 homeless and at-risk clients per week. Coordinators and volunteers are committed to ordering, assembling, distributing [2] essential need materials, and providing clients information on the various support services available.

How will the project address or solve the need

The core purpose of the project is to provide basic needs through outreach. Materials (hard) can be used as an instrument to interact and introduce information about low barrier support services (soft) to

unhoused clients; those at-risk, transition-age youth, elderly, disabled, veterans, and families living on the streets of Vallejo. The peer-to-peer interactions with clients using trained coordinator(s) and volunteers will lead to intervention services at the Vallejo Navigation Center.

This project will provide essential need materials such as socks, feminine care products, toiletries, laundry products, snacks, and marketing of the project through outreach coordinators, volunteer coordinators, case managers, and Vallejo's Navigation Center.

The project addresses homelessness, namely misinformation, prolonged fear, and anxiety, by offering exact, tangible options. The homeless require assistance navigating a myriad of conditions of homelessness:

- Service interventions to prevent homelessness
- Help to stabilize clients with mental health issues and substance use disorders
- Benefit advocates to help clients find public and entitlement benefits
- Case management focusing on targeting client deficiencies
- Navigation to identify root causes of homelessness through a range of essential recovery support services

A significant barrier for clients accessing benefits and services is transportation to mainstream agency locations that are remote, inconvenient, or limited by days and hours that offices are open. No-cost transportation service is crucial to the project's outcome as it smooths clients' ability to travel who otherwise would not have transportation to interventions and services.

Transportation services would be available using transit subsidies at the Vallejo Navigation Center. Under special circumstances, subsidized vouchers for clients with limited resources who have eligible trip purposes and no other resources to meet that transportation need would be available. The benefit of having a transportation service option is it ensures that homeless and underserved clients can be identified, informed, and have equal opportunity to receive referrals to health, dental, mental health, housing, substance abuse, and other appropriate services.

Describe in detail how residents, visitors, groups, communities, geographic areas, or the City of Vallejo will benefit from this project?

Providing basic needs, emergency shelter, social, and housing services benefit the homeless, at-risk, and the community as it allows for a smooth and direct transition to supportive services agencies and Vallejo's Navigation Center. Another measurable benefit of the project is that it relieves the city of cost burdens addressing homelessness.

The proposal's expected outcome is it leverages basic needs and information to provide a pathway to opportunities that reduce homelessness and develop self-sufficiency. This project facilitates the path to building relationships, trust, housing, health and behavioral health services, education, meaningful and gainful employment, and opportunities for self-sufficiency and economic mobility.

Direct Beneficiaries:

All residents of Vallejo, housed and unhoused, benefit when the health of the community improves.

The at-risk, homeless families, transition-age youth, disabled, veterans, and senior populations benefit by having smooth access to mainstream services and benefits.

Vallejo residents will see and experience a change of perception and how the city is addressing the impact of homelessness.

The community benefits when service and agency interventions relax ever-growing safety and health concerns identified to homelessness.

Indirect Beneficiaries:

City, County, State

Increased revenues. The financial burden on city services, emergency services, and court services, which demonstrate the greatest social and economic impact of homelessness can be reduced by providing coordinated efforts, basic support, and paths to a coalition of benefits and services.

Potential Challenges and Obstacles

The challenges for those experiencing homelessness or at-risk of losing homes pale compared to the challenges and obstacles of not funding this project. The long-term challenge of management of multi-agency partnerships will require a dedicated and collaborative effort, and without the assistance of volunteers, the impact may be less than expected. (Vallejo Together (VT) organizes and hosts monthly roundtable meetings with an emphasis on creating a strong volunteer force by partnering with county, city, community agencies, and faith-based organizations.)

Who will implement the project?

Fighting Back Partnership

505 Santa Clara Street, 3rd Floor

Vallejo, CA 94590

Where will the project be implemented?

Vallejo and unincorporated areas

Project Budget

Budget aligns and strengthens existing basic need budget resources. The base-line budget for supplies will be subsidized with an in-kind contribution from the implementing partner in the form of basic need materials. The determination for budget costs for hourly rates are based on Bay Area Nonprofits Salary Benchmarking 2017 Survey for case managers/outreach staff support. Any commercially available products to the public are purchased from local stores (Walmart, Costco, etc.) or online.

Supplies: \$75000 + FBP in-kind contribution

APPAREL/ PROTECTION; socks, tarps, blankets, scarves, gloves, hats, rain poncho, baby sippy cups, umbrellas, sunscreen, adult-baby diapers, hand warmers, bras, blankets, scarves, gloves, hats, etc.

NUTRITION; cup-o-noodles, granola bars, baby formula-food, bottled water, dog/cat food, tuna packs, crackers, peanut butter/jelly, etc.

CONSUMABLES; beverage cups, eating utensils, plates, mops – sweepers, zip locks, odor control products, bleach, etc.

DURABLE GOODS; foam floor mattress, clothing-weather related, sleeping bags, umbrella, can-openers, wallets, tarps, etc

APPAREL/ PROTECTION; socks, tarps, blankets, scarves, gloves, hats, rain poncho, baby sippy cups, umbrellas, sunscreen, adult-baby diapers, hand warmers, bras, blankets, scarves, gloves, hats, etc.

Project timeline

The project will begin **July 1, 2020**, or as soon as the contract with the City of Vallejo is completed, and will continue over a one-year period. Activities for each quarter are detailed below.

TOTAL Budget \$75000

[1] Housing First Solano – Solano County Homeless Census & Survey 2019 - <http://www.housingfirstsolano.org/hic-pit-count.html>

[2] a sampling of basic need materials as listed under Project Budget