

Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 30, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: (M) Christ

Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Jane Micallef, Director, Health, Housing and Community Services

Department

Subject: Revenue Contract: Abode Services to Expand the Square One Program

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a revenue contract and any resultant agreements with Abode Services for funding in the amount of \$70,560 to expand the capacity of the Square One Program by providing five tenant-based rental subsidies to chronically homeless individuals.

## FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded a new Supportive Housing Program (SHP) grant to Abode Services for a countywide collaboration called the Alameda County Impact Project. HUD awarded a one-year grant for the amount of \$852,468. Of this amount, Abode Services will subcontract \$70,560 with the City of Berkeley.

The contract with Abode Services will be for one year in order to provide five tenant-based rental subsidies for chronically homeless adults in Berkeley. Of the \$70,560, up to 2.5% of the funds, or \$1,764, is available to support the grant-related administrative activities of the Health, Housing & Community Services Department. Grant revenue will be deposited in and expended from Fund 806-7906-463-3560 HS9A03. The appropriation of the grant revenues will be included in the Second Amendment to the FY 2013 Annual Appropriations Ordinance. No additional City funds will be needed to administer the grant. The Health, Housing and Community Services Department intends to integrate the administration of the grant into its current operations and staffing configuration. This revenue contract has been entered into the City's contract management database and assigned CMS No. FM8NT.

HUD requires that SHP grantees leverage cash match for 20% of the award amount. The City of Berkeley will contribute \$19,607 in general fund revenue as cash match for the countywide project. These funds are currently allocated to the Health, Housing & Community Services Department through the Public Commons for Everyone Initiative (PCEI) to fund the Square One Project, providing outreach, case management and

rental assistance for up to 12 chronically homeless adults in downtown Berkeley and these funds will expand the capacity of the Square One Project to serve five additional households.

## CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In September of 2011, HUD released the annual Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Homeless Assistance Grants. The NOFA included an opportunity for Alameda County's Homeless Continuum of Care to submit one new grant application for permanent supportive housing. Through a countywide planning process facilitated by EveryOne Home, the agency that coordinates Alameda County's Continuum of Care, Alameda County submitted a collaborative application for a Supportive Housing Program grant to provide approximately 50 tenant-based subsidies countywide for chronically homeless adults. An application outlining the basic parameters of the program was submitted on October 26, 2011, to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) seeking \$852,468 in Supportive Housing Program funds. HUD approved the grant application in March 2012.

The new project, which is being called the Alameda County Impact Project ("AC Impact") is a collaboration of EveryOne Home, five local cities and police departments (Berkeley, Oakland, Hayward, Fremont and Livermore) and several non-profit agencies. Abode Services, a non-profit agency based in Fremont, is the grantee and, along with EveryOne Home, will coordinate the implementation of the project. Largely modeled on the Square One Program in Berkeley, AC Impact will target housing to chronically homeless persons who have had frequent encounters with local law enforcement agencies. The purpose of AC Impact is to improve the quality of life for both chronically homeless persons and for the general community by providing stable housing and ongoing services to targeted individuals to reduce homelessness and problematic behavior in commercial districts or other public areas.

With the HUD funding AC Impact will subsidize scattered-site leased units in each of the target communities and provide case management and access to other critical services. Abode Services will contract with the City of Berkeley to provide rental assistance and supportive services to five chronically homeless adults, which will enable the City to expand the number of individuals served through the Square One Program.

City Council initially funded the Square One Program as part of the Public Commons for Everyone Initiative. The City currently allocates \$292,000 in general funds to provide rental subsidies to up to 15 households administered by the Health, Housing and Community Services Department. The Berkeley Mental Health Homeless Outreach Team provides outreach and case management and LifeLong Medical Care provides health services. The additional subsidies will be incorporated into the existing program structure with no additional administrative costs.

### **BACKGROUND**

According to the 2011 Alameda County homeless count, unsheltered homelessness among adults without children rose significantly when compared to the homeless count conducted in 2009. Many cities have reported growing challenges with visible homelessness on the streets and at outdoor encampments. EveryOne Home has been actively conducting outreach and training for law enforcement agencies across the county to address homelessness, and several cities have adopted innovative approaches to address the unsheltered and visibly homeless. The AC Impact program builds on these efforts, taking as a particular model the Square One program in Berkeley, which was designed to reduce chronic homelessness and improve the quality of life in commercial areas for all citizens.

In 2009, the City of Berkeley funded the Square One Program through the Public Commons for Everyone Initiative. The program design includes the involvement of the Berkeley Police Department to prioritize individuals to be served by the program, based on frequent community complaints, citations or arrests. The program combines rental assistance with ongoing outreach and case management services to assist the targeted individuals to obtain suitable housing.

AC Impact capitalizes on Square One and other existing outreach programs (Abode Services' HOPE Mobile Clinic and Oakland PATH Rehousing Initiative) and links them with essential housing and supportive services. The program model entails collaboration with local law enforcement personnel to identify persons meeting the screening criteria in order to offer services and housing resources to reduce homelessness in the target areas.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Currently, the City of Berkeley's Health, Housing & Community Services Department operates the Square One Program. This has been a successful program that provides permanent housing resources for some of the City's homeless population that has been the most difficult to serve. The contract with Abode Services will expand the program's capacity and enable the City to house and additional five chronically homeless adults.

#### **CONTACT PERSON**

Andrew Wicker, Community Services Specialist

981-5418

Attachments:

1: Resolution

#### RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

# REVENUE CONTRACT: ABODE SERVICES TO EXPAND THE SQUARE ONE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, HUD has made funding available through the annual Notice of Funding Availability for Homeless Assistance Grants released in September of 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Continuum of Care submitted a successful collaborative application to HUD for funding for the amount of \$852,468 to provide approximately 50 rental subsidies to be distributed among five cities (Berkeley, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, and Oakland) in order to serve chronically homeless adults throughout the County through a program called "AC Impact" that is modeled on the City of Berkeley's Square One Program; and

WHEREAS, Abode Services, a non-profit agency based in Fremont, is the lead agency and the grantee with HUD for the new project, and will contract with the City of Berkeley in the amount of \$70,560 to expand the City's existing Square One Program by providing rental assistance to five additional chronically homeless adults prioritized for services by the Berkeley Police Department; and

WHEREAS, grant revenue will be deposited in and expended from Fund 806-7906-463-3560 HS9A03, CMS No. FM8NT; and

WHEREAS, the Health, Housing & Community Services Department currently administers the Square One Program and will incorporate the new funding into the existing program structure without additional resources being necessary.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a revenue contract and any resultant agreements with Abode Services, the lead agency for AC Impact, for funding in the amount of \$70,560 to expand the capacity of the Square One Program.