



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 21, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager
Submitted by: Jane Micallef, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services
Subject: Expenditure Contract: Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments or extensions with Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED) in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The funding source for this contract is the General Fund (Budget Code: 010-4501-440.35-10) and it runs from FY 2014 through FY 2016. The annual funding amount for the contract is \$50,000 per year and is subject to Council approval of the budget and the Annual Appropriations Ordinance for each fiscal year.

The contract has been entered into the City's Contract Management System and assigned CMS No. N7GJ3.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City Council has consistently recognized the acute public health implications of the HIV and Hepatitis B and C epidemics among intravenous drug users (IDUs) and the proven effectiveness of needle exchange to decrease these public health risks. The City has provided annual support to NEED since 2008.

BACKGROUND

NEED is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Berkeley-based all volunteer organization which has maintained a strong working relationship with the City for many years. NEED provides free sterile syringes and collects used syringes from IDUs to reduce transmission of blood borne pathogens including HIV, and Hepatitis B and C viruses. In addition to syringe distribution and collection, NEED provides prevention supplies, education and referrals. NEED operates multiple sites through its volunteer staffed mobile units in and around Berkeley. NEED works on a harm-reduction model for IDUs, an evidence-based public health approach.

This is a sole-source contract as NEED provides a unique service that is not available through other agencies or groups.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, evidence is strong that syringe exchange leads to reductions of injecting risk behaviors among IDUs. HIV incidence among IDUs declined by approximately 80% from 1988-1990 to 2003-2006 in the United States. Injection related transmission is the only adult transmission category to show a reduction of this magnitude. Despite the overall decline, IDUs continue to represent a substantial proportion of persons with new HIV diagnoses. In California, IDUs accounted for 6.5% of all new HIV infections in 2012. This percentage is almost double (11%) for African Americans compared to Whites (6%). Moreover, injection drug use is the most common risk factor for Hepatitis C Virus infection. Economic evaluations have concluded that Syringe Exchange Programs are cost effective in preventing HIV infection.

Persons who inject drugs should use a new, sterile syringe for each injection to prevent transmission of HIV and other bloodborne infections. Contracting with NEED for these activities allows the City to maximize service delivery to high risk community members, by enlisting NEED's expertise and community experience in this work.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

This service is essential for the Public Health Division's mission and goals. The Public Health Division does not have resources to deliver this service directly. The alternative action of not working with NEED to deliver these services is that Berkeley residents at high risk of HIV, Hepatitis, and other bloodborne infections would not receive these effective, preventive, harm-reduction services.

CONTACT PERSON

Janet Berreman, Health Officer, Health Housing & Community Services 981-5301

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT: NEEDLE EXCHANGE EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION (NEED) FOR HIV
AND HEPATITIS PREVENTION AND SYRINGE EXCHANGE SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City Council has consistently recognized the acute public health implications of the HIV and Hepatitis B and C epidemics among intravenous drug users and the proven effectiveness of needle exchange to address such public health effects; and

WHEREAS, the Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution has a long history of reaching the injection drug using populations which are at highest risk from HIV, and Hepatitis B and C infection in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Department of Health, Housing & Community Services works to promote healthy environments and behaviors, protect residents from disease, and prevent illness, disability, and premature death; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Department of Health, Housing & Community Services seeks to eliminate health inequities; and

WHEREAS, funds are in the proposed FY 2014 budget for the continuation of syringe exchange services provided by the Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution through budget code 010-4501-440.35-10. This contract has been entered into the citywide contract management system and has been assigned CMS No. N7GJ3.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a contract and any amendments or extensions with Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016 for HIV and Hepatitis prevention and syringe exchange services. Budget Code (Expenditure): 010-4501-440.35-10; CMS No. N7GJ3. A record signature copy of said contract to be on file in the office of the City Clerk.

