



TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: ED SHIKADA, CITY MANAGER

DATE: JUNE 15, 2020

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 7 – Recommendation on the Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding Allocation; Recommendation That the City Manager or Designee be Authorized to Execute Necessary Documents for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 CDGB Application; and to Submit the 2020-2021 Action Plan and the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by the Extended Deadline of August 16, 2020

Staff circulated the Draft ConPlan 2020-25 and Draft Annual Action Plan 2020-21 for public comments May 8 - June 8, 2020. Staff received comments from one local nonprofit during this time. The comments, submitted by LifeMoves, are attached (Attachment A). Below is the summary of the comments provided by LifeMoves:

- Instead of the single word “LifeMoves” the name is spelled as “Life Moves” in the draft ConPlan.
- LifeMoves provides services to all Santa Clara County residents, not just those from Palo Alto and San Jose as written in the Draft ConPlan.
- LifeMoves is one of the agencies that provides HPS (Homelessness Prevention System) services in Santa Clara County, the draft does not speak of LifeMoves. The agency suggested to include reference to LifeMoves.
- The number of shelter beds available is not correct. LifeMoves suggested to revise it to reflect the correct numbers.
- LifeMoves services that CDBG funds support, should be revised to substitute the word “households” or “individuals” for the term “families.”

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Jonathan Lait

Director

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Ed Shikada

City Manager



Comments on the Draft Report: City of Palo Alto CDBG 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan

1. Our name is misspelled in ten places throughout the Draft Report (spelled as “Life Moves” instead of the single word “LifeMoves”). Pages where this occurs: 11, 19, 121 (2 places), 122, 123, 127, 132 (2 places), 138.
2. Page 11, 7th paragraph: LifeMoves provides a broad range of services to all Santa Clara County residents, not just those from Palo Alto and San Jose. Within Santa Clara County, we have facilities in Palo Alto, Mountain View and San Jose. Thus, we would propose to revise the language highlighted below:

Service providers and organizations that provide services to homeless populations and persons at risk of homelessness were also contacted by the City to attend the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan engagement meetings. This includes Abode Services which administers tenant-based rental assistance; Destination Home, the policy group that works on homeless prevention and strategies to end homelessness; **and Life Moves, a shelter and homeless provider in San José and Palo Alto.** Destination Home was consulted via a phone interview to obtain feedback on homeless and at-risk population needs.

In place of this description of LifeMoves, we propose the following revision:

“and LifeMoves, a provider of shelter and supportive services to individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.”

3. Page 41, 4th paragraph: LifeMoves is one of the agencies that provides HPS services in Santa Clara County, so the draft could be revised to include reference to LifeMoves in this paragraph. See our proposed underlined addition below (typo also highlighted below):

HPS includes 13 agencies that offer financial assistance and case management targeted to client’s needs. Case Management services may include working with a Housing Specialist to retain housing or relocation. The County Office of Supportive Housing is the HPS Program Manager. Other partner agencies include: five local victim service providers to assist families fleeing unsafe housing; the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley for eviction prevention services and training HPS staff on referrals to eviction; CalWorks [**note: should be: “CalWORKS”**] and SSVF provide financial assistance, case management, connections to benefits and job training; the Bill Wilson Center works with school district homeless liaisons and also trains school staff on identifying at risk families to refer to HPS; and LifeMoves provides financial assistance and case management.

4. Page 68: Information in the bottom section under heading “MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services” is not correct, and it is repeated in the charts on page 79 and 81 (errors explained below). LifeMoves only offers 20 shelter beds in the City of Palo Alto, and no other shelter beds or housing units.
5. Page 79, chart and information at the top of the page: LifeMoves only offers 20 emergency shelter beds in the City of Palo Alto, as part of our “Hotel de Zink” program. We do not operate any permanent supportive housing (PSH) sites or other shelter beds within the City of Palo Alto. Moreover, because the 20 beds we do offer are part of a rotating faith-based program (overnight accommodations are provided in one of 12 churches each month of the year), the City may wish to include a note on this chart, indicating that the 20 shelter beds offered by LifeMoves are not provided at a fixed site or location.
6. Page 81, chart (Table 47): As noted above, LifeMoves only offers 20 shelter beds within the City of Palo Alto (bottom two rows of this chart could be combined to total these 20 beds). We do not manage or operate the 117 units referenced in the first two rows of this table.

Some of the PSH units referenced in this chart may now be operated by Abode Services in conjunction with the “Community Working Group” (CWG), but the Abode website reference to the units located at 33 Encina Avenue (in the floors above the LifeMoves Opportunity Services Center) indicates there are only 88 units at that location (see, description at: <https://www.abodeservices.org/opportunity-center>).

7. Page 122. Item #2 in this chart describes the LifeMoves services that CDBG funds support, but the description in row seven of the left-hand column should be revised to substitute the word “households” or “individuals” for the term “families.” The LifeMoves CDBG grant provides for services to individuals or “households,” not families. This is reflected in the grant metrics, where we have committed to provide services to 36 individuals.

Note: We think this change should probably be made to all of the row-7 items in this section. Under HUD and CDBG terminology, a “household” can be, for example, either a single individual, or a family of ten, so a “household” is not always a family.

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