# FEDERAL GRANTS DIVISION

## **RICHARDSON BAY PLANNING AREA**

# PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Marguerita Johnson Center 630 Drake Avenue Marin City

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Staff Report: Recommendations for Project Funding
- 2. Public Comments on CDBG Project Proposals
  - A. Housing Projects
  - B. Capital Projects
  - C. Public Service Projects
- 3. Action by Richardson Bay Local Area Committee: Recommendations to Countywide Priority Setting Committee for Planning Area Projects
  - A. Housing Projects
  - B. Capital Projects
  - C. Public Service Projects
- 4. Open Time for Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda

## **Future Hearings**

Thursday, February 2, 2017 7:00 PM Countywide Priority Setting Committee (CDBG Countywide Housing Projects, HOME Program Projects, and Ratification of CDBG Planning Area Recommendations)

Marin Housing Authority, Garden Room 4020 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 Marin County Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center, Room 330
3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael

If you have questions about the public hearing, please call Leelee Thomas at (415) 473-6697 at the Marin County Community Development Agency. People using TTY devices may reach us at (415) 473-3232 (TTY) or through the California Relay Service at 711. All public meetings and events sponsored or conducted by the County of Marin are held in accessible sites. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling Roy Bateman at (415) 473-6698, (415) 473-3232 (TTY), or by e-mail: rbateman@marincounty.org, at least five business days in advance of the event. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request. Sign language interpretation and translation into languages other than English are available upon request. Please call our office at (415) 473-6698, at least five business days in advance of the public hearing you want to attend, if you need language translation, a sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device, or other reasonable accommodation. In consideration of persons with environmental sensitivities, please do not wear perfume or other fragrances. Call Golden Gate Transit (415-455-2000, 711 TDD) for transit information.











The Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports, records regarding past use of Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program funds, the Civil Rights Policy, the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, the Nondiscrimination Policy, and program files are available for inspection at the Marin County Community Development Agency, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 308, San Rafael, California. Copies of documents are available in accessible formats upon request.





## FEDERAL GRANTS DIVISION

## **STAFF REPORT**

TO: RICHARDSON BAY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

FROM: Jared Stalling, Planner

Leelee Thomas, Community Development Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendations for Funding 2017-18 for

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Proposals

DATE: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Marguerita Johnson Senior Center

640 Drake Avenue, Marin City

#### Summary:

Federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDBG entitlement program allocates annual grants to larger cities and urban counties to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and opportunities to expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. Marin County is classified as an urban county which is divided into 6 planning areas. Each of the six planning areas is allocated a portion of the funding, based on the share of population from the most recent Census.

The recommendations from the Community Development Block Grant staff for funding projects in the Richardson Bay Planning Area are listed below. There were 12 funding requests including 6 applications from the local planning area and 6 organizations with countywide services requesting funding in multiple planning areas. The requests totaled \$431,020; and based on last year's allocation, it is estimated that a total of \$89,531 will be available for the Planning area. These recommendations will be considered at the Richardson Bay Planning Area public hearing on *Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at the Marguerita Johnson Senior Center, 640 Drake Avenue, Marin City*. Meetings are open to the public and testimony is welcome.

The Countywide Priority Setting Committee Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday**, **February 2**, **2017 at the Marin Housing Authority's Garden Room**, **4020 Civic Center Drive**, **San Rafael**.

The Board of Supervisors hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at the Marin County Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 330, San Rafael.

## BACKGROUND:

## **Program Overview and Grant Amounts**

The County advertised extensively and the application period for CDBG and HOME funds was open for 30 days in October and November 2016; application materials where available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. 46 applications for housing, capital projects and public services were received from local housing and services providers. Under our current process, planning area public hearings are held in each of the six planning areas, followed by a Countywide Priority Setting Committee Meeting and a Board of Supervisors hearing. After this process, a funding application is prepared and submitted to HUD for the formula grant. Due to routine delays in the adoption of the federal budget, funding allocations will likely not be known prior to the County's filing deadline in May.

Marin's actual grant amounts are affected by changes in the overall program funding in the federal budget, and by changes in how Marin ranks in comparison with other grantees on demographic factors (population, poverty, overcrowded housing, etc.). In 2016-17 the total CDBG allocation was \$1,302,255, and the HOME allocation was \$578,379. Staff is currently projecting flat funding levels in both programs and will use these amounts in the funding recommendations.

To avoid the need for an additional hearing, staff recommends that if there is a change in the grant allocation, the grant amounts set at the local planning area hearings be subject to revision. At that time, staff would recalculate the amounts available for each planning area, and for each activity category. To the extent that cuts are needed or additional funds are available, staff would adjust the preliminary project grant amounts, so that the final funding amounts will be proportional to the amounts approved at the hearing. Where feasible, staff would then round numbers to the nearest hundred dollars. If additional funds are available, the adjustment would be limited so that no project receives more than the amount the sponsor requested.

Nationally, the most important long-term trend in the CDBG and HOME Programs has been the decline in funding. This year, staff is projecting no increases or decreases in the CDBG and HOME funding. However, as grants remain flat or decline, and personnel costs increase, we are likely to see a gap between actual administrative costs and the amount HUD allows for administration.

Locally, there has been an increasing emphasis on the extent to which members of the protected classes<sup>1</sup> are served by CDBG and HOME projects, and the quality of each project sponsor's affirmative marketing plan. As required by HUD, staff will also be focusing more on monitoring and measurable outcomes.

#### **Spending Deadlines**

HUD regulations stipulate that unspent funds should be taken and used in communities that can meet timely spending guidelines. HUD takes sanctions if, on the annual test date in late April, a community has unspent CDBG funds that exceed 1.5 times its

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and familial status are protected under federal fair housing laws.

annual CDBG grant amount. We are typically very close to the allowable limit of unspent funds. If the CDBG grant declines, the amount of unspent funds permitted also declines. Therefore, we should be careful to target CDBG funds to projects that are ready to proceed.

## **CDBG Administrative Expenses**

CDBG regulations limit administrative expenses to 20% of available funds. Administrative, monitoring, and regulatory requirements from the federal government have been increasing. The program requires accountability and extensive recordkeeping. Changes in government accounting standards and local accounting systems require more complex work to assure the adherence to regulations. The CDBG program regulations allow us to spend 20% of available grant funds on administrative costs (including staff, rent, overhead, and office expenses). In that formula, available grant funds also include revenue ("program income") received from past projects, such as repayments of loans made by the Rehabilitation Loan Program and payments in conjunction with the sale of properties that were purchased or improved with CDBG funds. Because the CDBG program is operated by the County, the County is solely responsible for the risk that administrative costs may exceed the grant's allowance for administration.

One way to reduce the administrative workload is to reduce the number of projects. Reducing the number of projects would allow funds to be more impactful while also reducing the volume of project contracts, project monitoring reports, invoice processing, and accounting so that our workload can better match our staffing level. Over the last 10 years, the number of CDBG projects funded each year has fluctuated between 30 and 52 projects per year. It may not be sustainable to continue to fund at this level. Therefore, to align with HUD and local goals, staff is recommending that we reduce the number of projects in the 2017-18 program year.

## **Local Funding Priorities**

At their meeting on August 18, 2016, the Priority Setting Committee (PSC) established local funding priorities, discussed below, which will be used by staff in evaluating applications and making funding recommendations.

#### Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:

In recent years, Marin County has received criticism for its lack of affordable housing as well as significant gaps in the availability of affordable housing for members of the protected classes. In 2011, the County submitted an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) to HUD which identified 37 specific barriers to fair housing choice. While many of the items have been addressed, several goals are still outstanding. Federal grants funding will be used in a manner consistent with supporting the goals of furthering fair housing choice in Marin County. This would align with recommendation 4 from the Implementation Plan of the Analysis of Impediments:

Make fair housing and equal opportunity criteria a more visible and comprehensive part of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program project selection process by screening all CDBG and HOME applications for compliance with fair housing and equal opportunity criteria and including an analysis of equal opportunity impact in staff reports recommending projects for funding.

In the 2017-18 cycle and beyond, projects which are aligned with Fair Housing goals that have been laid out in the Consolidated Plan and the Assessment for Fair Housing will be prioritized. Addressing the fair housing concerns in Marin County will require a consolidated effort on behalf of County staff, Board of Supervisors, Cities and Towns and Priority Setting Committee members. One of the first steps is to align our federal funding sources with these fair housing plans and educate and communicate our strategy and goals to our partners to create a more unified effort. An example of this would be considering recommendation 16 from the Implementation Plan of the Analysis of Impediments when funding affordable housing developments:

Encourage and facilitate the development of more subsidized and affordable housing for families with children outside areas of minority concentration. Consider acquisition and shared housing. Screen and prioritize applications for CDBG and HOME funds for housing projects that will serve families and are located outside areas of minority concentration.

Supporting projects that serve members of the protected classes:

The PSC also opted that during the 2017-18 cycle projects that serve members of the projected classes will be prioritized. The application could require that data be provided which would specifically identify how and what members of the protected classes are being served and this data will be used in making funding recommendations and in evaluating whether projects predominantly serve members of the protected classes.

All funded projects will be required to affirmatively market their services. In this context it means to promote fair housing and to empower and give special assistance to groups that have historically been disadvantaged. It is simply not enough to not discriminate; we must also take assertive steps aimed at reversing historical trends and discriminatory patterns. The affirmative marketing plans are one part of that effort. The purpose of the affirmative marketing plan requirement is to promote a condition in which individuals of similar income levels in the same area have available to them a like range of choices in housing and services regardless of their race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability or familial status. Through an affirmative marketing plan, a provider indicates what special efforts they will make to reach out to potential applicants who might not normally seek housing or services. This requires that the provider study the market area, learn the target population and design methods to reach out to the target population. Affirmative marketing does not limit choices; it expands choices by actively seeking to reverse the patterns of the past and truly provide for open and fair access to housing and services where the individual is free to live, work and recreate where they choose. Affirmative marketing does not include specific goals or quotas. However, quantitative data and analysis are essential to planning and monitoring affirmative marketing program effectiveness.

## Prioritizing fewer applications:

HUD requested that Marin reconsider the numerous small allocations that have been made and consider funding fewer projects. More funds could be directed to larger projects that address a priority as established by the Priority Setting Committee. This recommendation was based on multiple conversations with the HUD office on ways to utilize our funds in the most efficient and effective way possible. Most recently this included comments on the 2016 Consolidated Plan Amendments requesting that we consider funding larger projects. Larger projects were identified by HUD as \$10,000 per project; however a dollar amount was not established by the POSC and could be reconsidered at the local level in the future.

## Funding fewer housing projects per year:

The PSC also recommended that one or two housing projects that are prepared and ready to utilize funds be prioritized. Funding fewer projects per year could allow more substantial funding commitments instead of funding many projects for multiple years. Funding in larger amounts may assist housing projects meet a more timely completion schedule. However, this may not always be feasible due to the lengthy approval processes common in Marin and HUD's strict timely spending requirements.

## Funding Recommendations for Richardson Bay Planning Area

CDBG funds can be used for affordable housing, capital improvements and public services. The CDBG regulations require that 30% of funds must be used for affordable housing and no more than 15% of the grant and program income can be used for a wide range of public service activities.

The staff recommendations for the use of CDBG Richardson Bay Planning Area funds are summarized on page 6; including a list of all the applications received and the amount staff recommends for each project. Following the summary is a more detailed description, evaluation and recommendation of each application (applications are included as Attachment 1). In staff's review, federal guidelines were used as the minimum threshold for eligibility. For all proposals, staff evaluated the proposals based on the local priorities established by the Priority Setting Committee and using evaluation criteria include in Attachment 2.

				RICHARDSO	N BAY 2016-17						
							15.67%				
TYPE	PROJECT #	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	APPLICANT'S REQUEST	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Planning %			nmended Funds	Committee final Recommend New Fund
Countywide											
Housing	Housing										
	CH-1	Fair Housing Services	Fair Housing Advocates of Marin	1314 Lincoln Avenue, Suite A, San Rafael 94901	Fair housing services	70,000	10,969			10,969	
	CH-2	Rehabilitation Loan Program	Marin Housing Authority	4020 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael 94903	Staff salaries to provide residential rehabilitation loans	285,000	44,660			8,056	
	CH-3	Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter	Center For Domestic Peace	Countywide	Rehabilitation and renovation of facility	50,000	7,835			7,835	
		Housing subtotal				\$ 405,000	\$ 63,464		\$	26,860	\$
Public	Public Service										
Services	CS-1			630 Drake Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965	Life skills and tutoring program for students	340,000	53,278				
	CS-2	Legal Services	<u> </u>		Legal assistance for low income children and families	28,000	4,388				
	CS-3	Marin Brain Injury Network Services	Schurig Center	1132 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur 94939	Staff salaries for services for head injury survivors	30,000	4,701				
		Public Services subtotal				\$ 398,000	\$ 62,367		\$	-	\$
TYPE	PROJECT #	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION		APPLICANT'S REQUEST	Reprogrammed Funds	1	nmended Funds	Committee final Recommend New Fund
Housing											
	RH-1	Galilee Harbor	Galilee Harbor Community Assoc	300 Napa StreetSausalito 94965	Liveaboard community, public facility improvements		135,535				
		Housing subtotal	,			_	\$ 135,535	\$ -	\$	50,000	\$
Capital						-	•	•	-		
	RC-1	Youth Nutrition Program	Marin City CSD	640 Drake Avenue, Marin City	Youth nutrition education and meal services program	-	17,655				
	RC-1 RC-2	Youth Nutrition Program  Medical Exam room rehab	Marin City CSD  Marin City Health & Wellness	640 Drake Avenue, Marin City 630 Drake Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965	Youth nutrition education and meal services program Renovation/Addition of medical rooms	-	17,655 55,000			50,000	
		-	· ·		1 2			\$ -	\$	50,000 <b>50,000</b>	\$
Public Service	RC-2	Medical Exam room rehab	· ·		1 2		55,000	\$ -	\$		\$
Public Service	RC-2	Medical Exam room rehab  Capital subtotal	Marin City Health & Wellness		1 2		55,000	\$ -	\$		\$
Public Service	RC-2	Medical Exam room rehab  Capital subtotal	Marin City Health & Wellness ISOJI MDT Multi-Disciplinary Te	630 Drake Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965  C/O MCCSD 630 Drake Ave., Marin City 94965	Renovation/Addition of medical rooms		\$ 72,655	\$ -	\$		\$
Public Service	RC-2	Medical Exam room rehab  Capital subtotal  Equity Project	Marin City Health & Wellness ISOJI MDT Multi-Disciplinary Te	630 Drake Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965  C/O MCCSD 630 Drake Ave., Marin City 94965	Renovation/Addition of medical rooms  Equity building, tracking, monitoring for the public		55,000 <b>\$ 72,655</b> 5,000	\$ -	\$	50,000	\$
Public Service	RC-2 ess RS-1 RS-2	Medical Exam room rehab  Capital subtotal  Equity Project  Marin Learning Center, Therapeutic Serv	Marin City Health & Wellness  ISOJI MDT Multi-Disciplinary Te  Community Action Marin Child D	630 Drake Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965  C/O MCCSD 630 Drake Ave., Marin City 94965  100 Phillips Drive, Marin City 94965	Renovation/Addition of medical rooms  Equity building, tracking, monitoring for the public Therapeutic child care program		55,000 \$ 72,655 5,000 20,000 20,000 52,000	\$ -	\$	<b>50,000</b> - 7,000	\$
Public Service	RC-2 RS-1 RS-2 RS-3	Medical Exam room rehab  Capital subtotal  Equity Project  Marin Learning Center, Therapeutic Serv  Performing Stars	Marin City Health & Wellness  ISOJI MDT Multi-Disciplinary Te Community Action Marin Child Deforming Stars of Marin	630 Drake Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965  C/O MCCSD 630 Drake Ave., Marin City 94965  100 Phillips Drive, Marin City 94965  271 Drake AvenueMarin City 94965	Renovation/Addition of medical rooms  Equity building, tracking, monitoring for the public  Therapeutic child care program  Social/self development for low income children		55,000 \$ 72,655 5,000 20,000 20,000	\$ -	\$	<b>50,000</b> - 7,000	

				RICHARDSO	N BAY 2016-17					
							15.67%			
TYPE	PROJECT #	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	APPLICANT'S REQUEST	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Planning %		Recommended New Funds	Committee final Recommended New Funds
Countywide										
Housing	Housing									
	CH-1	Fair Housing Services		1314 Lincoln Avenue, Suite A, San Rafael 94901	=	70,000	10,969		10,969	
	CH-2	Rehabilitation Loan Program	Marin Housing Authority	4020 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael 94903	Staff salaries to provide residential rehabilitation loans	285,000	44,660	_	8,056	
	CH-3	Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter	Center For Domestic Peace	Countywide	Rehabilitation and renovation of facility	50,000	7,835		7,835	
Public	Housing subtotal  Public Services					\$ 405,000	\$ 63,464	-	\$ 26,860	\$ -
Services	CS-1	S CodeForward Academy Life Skills	Ethan Berry INC Nonprofit (EBI)	630 Drake Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965	Life skills and tutoring program for students	340,000	53,278	-		
JCI FICES	CS-2	Legal Services			S Legal assistance for low income children and families	28,000	4,388	-		
	CS-3	Marin Brain Injury Network Services	Schurig Center	1132 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur 94939	Staff salaries for services for head injury survivors	30,000	4,701	-		
		Public Services subtotal			,	\$ 398,000	\$ 62,367		\$ -	\$ -
TYPE	PROJECT #	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION		APPLICANT'S REQUEST	Reprogrammed Funds	Recommended New Funds	final Recommended New Funds
Housing										
	RH-1	Galilee Harbor	Galilee Harbor Community Assoc	300 Napa StreetSausalito 94965	Liveaboard community, public facility improvements		135,535			
	RH-2	Medical Exam room rehab	Marin City Health & Wellness	630 Drake Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965	Renovation/Addition of medical rooms		55,000		50,000	
		Housing subtotal					\$ 190,535	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ -
Capital										
	RC-1	Youth Nutrition Program	Marin City CSD	640 Drake Avenue, Marin City	Youth nutrition education and meal services program		17,655		-	
		Capital subtotal				_	<b>\$</b> 17,655	\$ -	<b>.</b> 2	<b>t</b> -
Public Service	es	capital subtotal					<b>⊕</b> 11,000	•		•
	RS-1	Equity Project	ISOJI MDT Multi-Disciplinary Te	C/O MCCSD 630 Drake Ave., Marin City 94965	Equity building, tracking, monitoring for the public		5,000		-	
	RS-2	Marin Learning Center, Therapeutic Serv	Community Action Marin Child D	100 Phillips Drive, Marin City 94965	Therapeutic child care program		20,000		7,000	
	RS-3	Performing Stars	Performing Stars of Marin	271 Drake AvenueMarin City 94965	Social/self development for low income children		20,000		5,671	
	RS-4	The Defenders Paper Co.	Marin City Health & Wellness	630 Drake Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965	Entrepreneur program for black teen boys		52,000			
		Public Services subtotal					\$ 97,000	\$ -	\$ 12,671	\$ -
					Marin County, 2010 Census	TOTAL	\$ 431,020		\$ 89,531	

## **PLANNING AREA FUNDING REQUESTS:**

13 applications totaling \$431,020 were received in the Richardson Bay Planning Area; based on last year's funding, it is estimated that \$89,531 will be available. Staff is recommending one local capital project, two public service programs as well as three countywide housing programs for funding this year. The projects proposed for funding are aligned with the federal and local priorities and the organizations have capacity to administer federal funds. The projects recommended for funding are highlighted in gray below.

## 1. Galilee Harbor (housing)

Galillee Harbor is requesting \$135,535.00 in CDBG funding for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year. Galillee Harbor has previously received federal funding from the County which was applied to their houseboat community. The funds requested would be for improvements to the parking lot and walkway not on the houseboats. Galillee Harbor's request is primarily for a seal that covers their parking lot and costs \$75,000. Galilee Harbor currently has a sizeable unspent balance that was to be used on their parking lot once the appropriate planning approvals are received. Staff does not recommend funding for Galilee Harbor for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year but recommends that they amend the scope of their request for the unspent funding to allocate to projects that are ready to move forward at this time.

## 2. Marin City Community Services District (capital)

The Marin City CSD seeks capital funds for a children and youth nutrition education and meal preparation program. Marin City is located in a food desert and the proposal addresses this and the health issues arising within Marin City residents. This project was funded for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year for staffing. The request for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year is to cover the expense of equipment including a commercial refrigerator, commercial oven, two commercial grade sinks, and a dishwasher. Staff does not recommend funding for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year because the appliances are not eligible under public service expenditures. The program is valuable and they are encouraged to apply next year for public services.

## 3. Marin City Health and Wellness (capital)

Marin City Health and Wellness operate a low-cost clinic for low-income residents of Marin City and elsewhere in the area. They particularly market their services to the residents of public housing complexes in the Marin City community. The health clinic in Marin City operates as a general practitioners service for medical care and dental care. The clinic provides a valuable service for the community and targets individuals most likely to require their services. Their 2017-18 Fiscal Year request was for \$55,000 to add two (2) new medical exam rooms. They anticipate that the addition of two (2) medical exam rooms will increase their total patients by more than 50. The health clinic offers an important service to low-income families in an area with a disproportionate concentration of lower income residents. Funding for this project is recommended as it will provide a one time needed capital improvement which will result in on-going critical services to the community.

## 4. ISOJI-Equity Project (public service)

The ISOJI equity project is requesting funds to start up a community intermediary for communication on projects, public meetings, and equity building. The mission is to collect data and information from various community organizations and create a community owned database that will supply information

to all local organizations, external entities, funders, and foundations wanting to invest or carry out services in the community. The Equity Project intends to connect community members to a vast amount of service providers. Their intention is to serve as a one-stop shop for their community members and any service they might need. Staff does not recommend funding at this time because of the limited funding available and need for basic services in the community.

## 5. Marin Learning Center - Community Action Marin (public service)

The Marin Learning Center provides child care, along with therapeutic services that address issues of social and emotional development. The Center continues to develop its therapeutic component for children and their families, as well as its focus on kindergarten school readiness, social and emotional development, cultural and environmental awareness, and community building. The therapeutic component at the Marin Learning Center is based on a play therapy room model and is staffed by a licensed therapist. The focus of the play room is to assist children in developing social and emotional skills and to create a climate of mutual respect, caring, and trust. Another goal is to help children develop a vocabulary for their feelings. The therapist meets with children individually, runs small groups for the children that focus on socialization skills, meets with parents, and trains staff how to work with children who are difficult and acting out. The Learning Center serves low income and working families. Staff recommends public services funding for this project.

## 6. Performing Stars - Performing Stars of Marin (public service)

Performing Stars of Marin is dedicated to building the self-esteem of low income children through activities in the performing, visual, and literary arts as well as providing access to summer day camp programs and field trips. The project has been successful in reaching out to members of the protected classes and meeting measurable objectives as described in their funding application. Staff recommends public services funds for this project.

## 7. Marin City Health and Wellness (public service)

The Defenders Paper Company offers services to low-income, black teens at the Marin City Community Services Districts offices. The Defenders Paper Company is a public service that takes specific teens identified through their parents or schools and teaches them entrepreneurial skills. This program is specific to boys and operates to address family issues that may exist in the children's' lives and improve on them in an afterschool program setting. The funds will be used to hire a new Program Facilitator and Assistant Program Facilitator. While this project does have a great benefit to teens, the requested amount is quite substantial in comparison to available funds.. Although this is clearly a valuable program, staff is not recommending funding in the Richardson Bay Planning Area at this time.

## **Countywide Organizations – requesting a prorated share of funds in West Marin**

## 1. Fair Housing Services (Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California)

Funding is recommended to enable the Fair Housing Program to continue its fair housing counseling services for people seeking housing who may be victims of discrimination. Their services include counseling victims of housing discrimination, investigating potential complaints, mediating settlements where appropriate, referring cases to federal and state enforcement agencies, monitoring filed complaints, helping people with disabilities with requests for reasonable accommodations, conducting training seminars for the housing industry, providing community education on fair housing rights, and presenting educational programs in public schools. From time to time, the Fair Housing Program runs audits and surveys to determine the extent of discrimination in the Marin rental housing market.

## 2. Rehabilitation Loan Program (Marin Housing Authority)

Marin Housing offers rehabilitation loans for lower income homeowners in Marin County. Loans are made available to owners of single-family homes to correct substandard housing conditions, to eliminate health and safety hazards, to create second units within an existing house where permitted by local ordinance, for rehabilitation of houseboats docked at approved berths, and for mobile homes located within a mobile home park. New loans range from \$5,000 to a usual limit of \$35,000, with an average of \$25,000. The program offers amortized loans, interest-only loans, and deferred payment loans (with no payments due until the property is transferred).

## 3. Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter (Center for Domestic Peace)

The Center for Domestic Peace is a domestic violence shelter located in Marin County at an undisclosed location. The Center has a long-standing relationship with the County of Marin and has been the recipient of federal funding for a number of years. The funding request for 2017-18 is to add two new beds at their facility. The Center for Domestic Peace accepts women and families from all across Marin County and markets their services very effectively. Staff recommends the Center for Domestic Peace be funded for this project that expands their services.

#### 4. Code Forward Academy Life Skills (Ethan Berry INC.)

Ethan Berry Nonprofit, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that is based in Oakland, California and is primarily focused on developing life skills and coding skills for middle school and high school aged students. Ethan Berry INC applied for countywide funding from his location based in Marin City at Marin City Health and Wellness. While the CodeForward Academy is a helpful after-school service, the \$340,000 exceeds our 15% service cap. The scope of the funding requested, exceeded the available public services funds in all planning areas and although the program is important, staff is not recommending funding at this time.

#### 5. Family Law Legal Services (Family and Children's Law Center)

The Family and Children's Law Center provides low-cost legal assistance to people who are unable to afford private legal services and need help with family law issues including divorce, domestic violence, spousal and child support, and child custody. Fees are on a sliding scale basis according to income. CDBG funds would be used towards staff salaries. Staff is not recommending funds for this program due to the limited funding available in the planning area.

## 6. The Brain Injury Network of the Bay Area (Schurig Center)

The Schurig center offers services and support groups for people with traumatic head injuries. Their services include day treatment, which provides cognitive and vocational rehabilitation for their brain injured clients. In 1997, the Network received certification from the California Department of Rehabilitation, which has reimbursed the Network for some of the services it provides. Racial minorities and Hispanics are under-represented among the beneficiaries of this program. Although the services are important, staff is not recommending funding at this time.

## **Attachments:**

- 1. Applications received for the Richardson Bay Planning Area
- 2. Evaluation Criteria