

2024 Annual Action Plan

Preliminary Public Service Projects and Budget*

What is a public service program? Public service programs can strengthen communities by addressing the needs of specific populations, including homeless, elderly, or youth individuals and low-income households. Public services are an integral part of a comprehensive community development strategy, and can address a range of individual needs of residents and increase the positive impact of CDBG dollars by complementing other activities or by filling service gaps that other programs or funding sources are not able to provide. Services provided can include those centered around case management, job training, substance abuse or mental health counseling, homelessness prevention, transportation, and health care, and are systems and solutions that can benefit various groups of individuals. While the City does not have the staffing resources to offer these programs itself, the City relies on the expertise and willingness of local non-profit organizations to provide these vital services to community members through reimbursement with CDBG funds of certain eligible costs.

* The City can only provide up to a total of \$184,685 to public services programs during the 2024 program year. This cap is calculated by first adding the expected 2024 CDBG allocation of \$1,056,567 to the unallocated prior-year CDBG funds that were received as income during the 2023-24 year (\$174,670), then multiplying this total by 15% ($\$1,056,567 + \$174,670 = \$1,231,237 \times 0.15 = \$184,685$). The City received requests for public service project funding totalling \$367,817. At the June 3, 2024, Council meeting, councilmembers were requested to provide direction to City staff as to how they wished staff to prioritize projects, while considering the needs of the low- to moderate-income (LMI) community. The amounts in the right-hand column below reflect that direction. Staff encourages residents and interested stakeholders to provide their own recommendations and suggestions. Thank you for your input.

Organization & Project Name	Description	Eligible Project Type	Consolidated Plan Goal/ Category/Strategic Plan Need Addressed	Organization's Requested Amount	6/3/2024 Council Direction Provided
Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project / "Emergency Assistance Program"	Short-term rental, gas/electric utility, and mortgage assistance to LMI households for a maximum of three consecutive months per household. Requested funding would provide these services to approximately 60 households for the entire year.	Public Service: 05Q-Subsistence Payments	Goal 3A - Provide Vital Services to LMI Families/Non-Homeless Special Needs/Public Services and Quality of Life Improvements	\$106,500	\$40,000
Harvest Time / "Food 4 You"	Food bank distributions to LMI households and prepared meals for homeless individuals through a partnership with Merced Rescue Mission. Requested funding would assist approximately 4,000 individuals	Public Service: 05W-Food Bank	Goal 3A - Provide Vital Services to LMI Families/Non-Homeless Special Needs/Public Services and Quality of Life Improvements	\$66,720	\$30,000
Healthy House Within a MATCH Coalition / "UPHILL ALL Grant #5 (Undoing & Preventing Homelessness and Abuse Later in Life)"	Senior services to elderly who are at risk of homelessness, homeless, disabled, or abuse/neglected; case management including emergency rental assistance, life skills, access to healthcare resources; provide training to approximately 100 social service providers & law enforcement	Public Service: 05A-Senior Services	Goal 3A - Provide Vital Services to LMI Families/Non-Homeless Special Needs/Public Services and Quality of Life Improvements	\$37,000	\$25,000

Project Sentinel / "Tenant-Landlord Services"	Tenant and Landlord dispute resolution and counseling to prevent homelessness; provides direct education and counseling services where cases of fair housing discrimination do not appear to exist, but where a dispute requires substantial intervention and mediation between the parties.	Public Service: 05K-Tenant/ Landlord Counseling	Goal 3A - Provide Vital Services to LMI Families/Non-Homeless Special Needs/Public Services and Quality of Life Improvements	\$55,000	\$25,000
Lifeline Community Development Corp (CDC) / "Empowering Loughborough Neighborhood"	Workforce training and afterschool activities for Loughborough Area residents to help lift families out of poverty.	Public Service: 05H-Employment Training	Goal 3A - Provide Vital Services to LMI Families/Non-Homeless Special Needs/Public Services and Quality of Life Improvements	\$25,000	\$30,000
Merced Calvary Assembly of God Church / "Clean Life"	Life skills training and counseling, provision of cleaning supplies and essential toiletries for the 92 LMI formerly homeless residents of the 1213 V Street project to ensure their independent living success while they continue their transition from homelessness.	Public Service: 05H-Employment/ Life Skills Training	Goal 3A - Provide Vital Services to LMI Families/Non-Homeless Special Needs/Public Services and Quality of Life Improvements	\$27,597 (adjusted to \$10,000 due to an ineligible portion of request)	\$10,000
Walking by Faith Ministries International (WBFMI) dba SERENITY / "Strengthen, Transform, Affirm, Restore, and Support (STARS) Afterschool Program"	Youth Services to include afterschool enrichment for low-income students, focusing on academic support, skill-building, and social-emotional development; case management, career development, transportation, life skills, and behavioral health and substance abuse counseling.	Public Service: 05D-Youth Services	Goal 3A - Provide Vital Services to LMI Families/Non-Homeless Special Needs/Public Services and Quality of Life Improvements	\$50,000	\$24,685
			Totals:	\$367,817	\$184,685