

Public Comment

**2020-2025
Consolidated Action Plan
and
2020-2021
Annual Action Plan**

March 31, 2020

Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley

Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley would like to thank the **City of Santa Clara** for your support of our mission. At Rebuilding Together, we believe that everyone deserves a safe and healthy home. For 29 years, we have transformed the lives of low-income neighbors by providing critical housing repairs and accessibility modifications to preserve affordable homeownership and restore safe living environments for the families that built our communities.

All our work is provided at no cost to the homeowner and can include: roofing repairs, plumbing and electrical repairs, window, door and lock repairs, carpentry, improved lighting, installation of grab bars, handrails, and wheelchair ramps, and interior and exterior painting. Our staff of full time Repair Technicians perform many of these services daily as well as emergency repairs to furnaces and water heaters.

We have requested \$50,000 for this funding round to provide critical repairs for at least 10 unduplicated Santa Clara County homes. 75% of housing in SCC was built over 30 years ago. A prolonged disinvestment and lack of maintenance pose a significant risk for exposure to health hazards. Families with fewer financial resources often experience unsafe, unhealthy living conditions, and are the least able to remedy them.

Rebuilding Together responds to urgent health and safety needs of low-income, older adults and people with disabilities, living in their own home, by addressing overdue critical repairs and accessibility modifications. The Bipartisan Policy Committee published a report on senior housing and health and found that the first step in providing affordable housing for seniors is to **preserve the housing stock we already have**. These repairs help seniors to age in place, and people with disabilities to live in a home with heating and hot water and help them remain an integral part of our community.

On average, our client has lived in their home 26 years, is 74 years old, and has an annual income of \$32,000. 62% of our clients are disabled. Seniors and people with disabilities generally don't have the means or ability to make the necessary home repairs to remain safe and engaged in their neighborhoods.

We can make these repairs because

- We engage over 2,000 community volunteers annually – some skilled tradespersons – but most are simply concerned neighbors.
- We contract out with plumbers, electricians and roofers to complete the skilled work.
- In 2019, our volunteers logged over 17,000 hours of service with an in-kind value of volunteer labor over \$500,000.
- Our project leverages the willing hands and hearts of volunteers, with CDBG dollars to help our neighbors and maintain our neighborhoods.

We believe that our mission is an important piece of the affordable housing puzzle and helps preserves current housing stock. These homes are where our clients raised their families, in neighborhoods where they feel a sense of belonging, and in communities that offer support. We help seniors to remain in their homes with pride and dignity, as long as their health will allow.

CDBG monies are our largest source of funding and make our work possible. Without these funds, our programs would be severely diminished. Along with the much-needed source of income, CDBG funds bring extensive quarterly reporting, and project tracking requiring additional staff resources. Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley receives CDBG funding from five cities and from Santa Clara County. CDBG reporting requirements oblige us to hire additional staff to manage the process. We understand that there are counties that work together with cities within their boundaries to offer one universal CDBG application and reporting process, saving many many hours of work for the cities and nonprofits participating in this funding. We respectfully request that those redrafting the new Consolidated Plan consider such a process for Santa Clara County and the cities contained therein. This would alleviate both city and nonprofit staff from performing duplicated processes and procedures. Thank you for considering our request.

Deanne Everton
Executive Director

Pronouns: she/her/hers



1701 S. 7th Street, #10
San Jose, CA 95112
408-578-9519

www.rtsv.org

Connect with us: [Facebook](#)



March 22, 2020

Eric L. Calleja, Housing Development Officer
Community Development Department
Housing & Community Services Division
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mr. Calleja,

On behalf of Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence (NDS) and those we serve, I thank the City of Santa Clara for this opportunity to submit these written comments relating to our 2020 -2021 CDBG-HOME Funding Application.

NDS has had a long working relationship with the City of Santa Clara, including engagement in HomeSafe Santa Clara, a permanent, affordable, shared housing community for domestic violence survivors and their children which opened nearly 20 years ago. We have been serving the residents of the City of Santa Clara for even longer, providing comprehensive services that address crisis and in creating paths that move survivors towards safety, stability, and self-sufficiency. For forty-nine years NDS has been providing services to meet the unmet needs of survivors and their children in the county. Even during this period when our community is facing an enormous health crisis, Next Door Solutions continues to be there with its Emergency Shelter and Hotline operating 24/7 every day, and helping clients to continue to engage in case management services with their Advocates through remote service. We are the longest established DV agency in the county and the provider of the greatest range of services.

Domestic violence violates the human rights of women and girls. It limits their opportunities, full participation, and advancement in society. It is gender-based violence, and requires specific efforts of women's EQUITY, empowerment, and advancement.

We are requesting \$21,666 to provide 75 Santa Clara residents who identify as victims/survivors of domestic/intimate partner violence (DV), a CDBG presumed benefit population, with comprehensive support services to address crisis, safety, stability, and self-sufficiency needs.

Ending domestic violence in the moment and for all time

234 E. GISH ROAD • SUITE 200 • SAN JOSE, CA 95112

OFFICE (408) 501-7550 • HOTLINE (408) 279-2962 • FAX (408) 441-7562 • www.nextdoorsolutions.org

Clients will engage in one or more services through three core programs:

- Community & Systems Advocacy (C&SA);
- Support Services focused on self-sufficiency; and
- Support Groups.

Services include walk-in crisis intervention peer counseling; risk assessment – including lethality assessment; safety planning; legal advocacy and assistance with filing restraining orders; case management based on the Eight Domains of Self-Sufficiency framework; housing assessment; individual action plan development and implementation, support groups; advocacy and accompaniment; and other supports, such as access to NDS' pantry and computer lab.

Advocates coordinate services that address the client's needs and goals as well as providing referrals to other NDS or outside services. Advocates provide language assistance for limited English speakers, provide advocacy on behalf of clients with landlords, employers, and public benefit agencies, and make referrals to childcare and other supports - all in support of the client's needs. Services assist the survivor in developing self-efficacy to address immediate, short, and long-term goals.

We are on a mission – to end domestic violence in the moment and for all time. And we hope you will favorably consider funding our full request.

Should you need additional information, I can be reached at jdancer@nextdoor.org or at 408.501.7540. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jordan Dancer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jordan Dancer
Grants Manager

Ending domestic violence in the moment and for all time

234 E. GISH ROAD • SUITE 200 • SAN JOSE, CA 95112

OFFICE (408) 501-7550 • HOTLINE (408) 279-2962 • FAX (408) 441-7562 • www.nextdoorsolutions.org



Building Connections for Youth and Families

3490 The Alameda
Santa Clara, CA 95050
(408) 243-0222 *tel*
(408) 246-5752 *fax*
www.billwilsoncenter.org

March 25, 2020

Mayor Gilmore and City Councilmembers
City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Re: March 31, 2020 City Council Agenda Item – **CDBG Funding Recommendations**

Dear Mayor Gilmore and Councilmembers:

Bill Wilson Center has been providing shelter and support to at-risk youth in Santa Clara since 1973 and we are fortunate to be a current recipient of CDBG funding for our counseling program for low and extremely low income youth and families in Santa Clara, as well as our Family Advocacy Services program providing homeless prevention services to students enrolled in the Santa Clara Unified School District and their families. We are grateful for staff's recommendation to continue support for both of these programs in the next CDBG funding cycle.

The Counseling program funded through CDBG (\$35,000) proposes to serve 140 students and/or families in Santa Clara who are extremely low income. This counseling program has been funded through CDBG for the past 11 years and has greatly benefitted Santa Clara residents - residents who might not otherwise have access to mental health counseling/services. This is a program that provides services on school campuses, as well as at Bill Wilson Center offices in Santa Clara and San Jose.

The Family Advocacy Services (FAS) program received initial funding from the City two years ago and is up and running in partnership with Santa Clara Unified School District. Funding received for this program (\$35,000) supports a part-time Case Manager who conducts in-person case management with families (107 people total) to help them establish a stability plan and access community resources for basic needs. While CDBG funding does not pay for client support or rental assistance, Bill Wilson Center is able to leverage funding received from the Santa Clara Unified School District PTA Association, resources provided through the City's Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program for which are an administrator, and in-kind support of office space from the School District. By piecing together resources we are able to help families stabilize and students to attend school on a regular basis so they have a better chance of academic success.

Since FAS is a relatively new program, I would like to share with you the impact it has had on one Santa Clara family.

The school district referred a family of five (mom and four children ages 13, 12, 17, and 6) to Bill Wilson Center because they were living in a van. Mom is undocumented and a victim of domestic violence. Our Case Manager met with the family to complete the County's VI-SPDAT and get them on the list for housing assistance. In addition, the mom needed help to access legal resources – she did not understand the court system and was afraid to do anything due to

her immigration status. BWC staff helped her obtain a restraining order and also to work within the family court system to file for child support. In addition, we were able to enroll her in a counseling group for victims of domestic violence which has helped her tremendously. Lastly, we enrolled her in the City's TBRA program and the family are now housed with all four children attending school on a regular basis!

Thank you to the City of Santa Clara for providing funding two years ago for this new program. It is truly making a difference in the lives of students and their families. With this cycle's recommended grant of \$35,000 Bill Wilson Center will continue to provide services at the same level and continue to piece together funding from other sources to fully support Santa Clara clients. It is unfortunate that funding does not increase at the same level that need does, however we will continue to do our best to help those in need in Santa Clara.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pilar L. Furlong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pilar L. Furlong
Chief Community Resources Officer

Senior Adult Legal Assistance

From: Georgia Bacil
To: [Eric Calleja](#)
Cc: [Andrew Crabtree](#)
Subject: Public Comments from SALA for Con Plan/Action Plan Hearing on March 31, 2020
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 4:10:45 PM
Attachments:

Dear Eric,

Thank you reaching out and letting us know about the opportunity to review and comment on the draft CON Plan/Action Plan for the City of Santa Clara. I had the opportunity to review the CON Plan and the Action Plan and am submitting these brief comments on behalf of Senior Adults Legal Assistance (SALA) due to time constraints.

Specifically, since March 17, SALA's Central Office has been closed to the public and we are not able to provide legal service appointments at Senior Centers because these locations have also been closed. However, SALA is an essential service, so we have been providing legal assistance to our senior clientele through initial telephone intake and follow up legal services delivered by telephone, US mail or email, and/or actual representation. Even though the Superior Court has temporarily suspended many matters, the Court has determined that Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence Restraining Orders are "essential functions" that will go forward, so we continue to handle these cases as well.

CON Plan Comments

It has been challenging adjusting to our temporary service delivery model, so we did not have time to review the draft CON Plan in detail. That said, we are pleased to see the following in the draft CON Plan:

- "Senior Services" are identified as a need to be addressed (Executive Summary on page 4);
- The Needs Assessment notes that the community is experiencing a "lack of elderly services" (Section NA-40 on page 54);
- The Market Analysis notes that in FY 2020-2021 the City will allocate funding towards housing and supportive services for non-homeless persons with special needs, and in particular for a range of supportive services for seniors including the "long term care ombudsman, senior nutrition, senior transportation, senior legal services, and senior adult day care" (Section MA-35 on page 72); and
- The Strategic Plan identifies the Elderly and Frail Elderly and Persons with Disabilities as High Priority Level populations for Public Services funding under the Citywide goal of supporting "activities to that provide basic needs to lower income households and special needs populations" (Section SP-25 on page 83).

Action Plan Comments

We are also pleased with the City staffs' recommendation for \$16,500 in CDBG funding for SALA for FY 2020-2021 so that we can continue to provide our free legal services to your senior residents. This recommendation is reflected in the 2020-2021 Action Plan on Table 66 (AP-35 Projects on page 10) and on Table 67 (PA-38 Project Summary on page 14).

More specifically, this proposed funding for FY 2020-2021 will enable SALA to provide a full range of accessible and affordable (free) legal services to 90 City of Santa Clara seniors (age 62 or older), improving and/or stabilizing their daily lives or their living environments, by:

- advising, counseling, or assisting them regarding the law or their basic rights;
- facilitating their access to public benefits (Social Security, SSI, Medicare, Medi-Cal) , health care, or other services to help them meet their basic life needs;
- addressing and/or preventing their abuse/exploitation, displacement/eviction, or premature institutionalization; and
- completing basic legal planning for health, personal, and financial decision-making by family members or caregivers who our senior clients trust in the event of our clients' incapacity/disability or for their end of life.

We hope that the City staff's recommendation for \$16,500 for SALA as detailed in the Action Plan will be adopted by the City Council.

Lastly, we want to express our appreciation to the City of Santa Clara for your current CDBG support of SALA's legal services to seniors. Should the City staff or the City Council have any questions about SALA's current or proposed legal services to your senior residents, please contact me at gbacil@sala.org.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit our comments by email.

Very truly yours,

Georiga

Georgia Bacil
Directing Attorney
Senior Adults Legal Assistance (SALA)
1425 Koll Circle, Suite 109
San Jose, CA 95112
gbacil@sala.org