


City Council Meeting
Item #6 RTC 21-1072
2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the use of Housing and Urban Development funds
September 28, 2021

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City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Overview

BACKGROUND

- The City of Santa Clara receives entitlement funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- The purpose of this funding is to benefit low-income households by providing affordable housing and community development services.
- Each year, the City reports accomplishments to HUD via the CAPER.

RECOMMENDATION

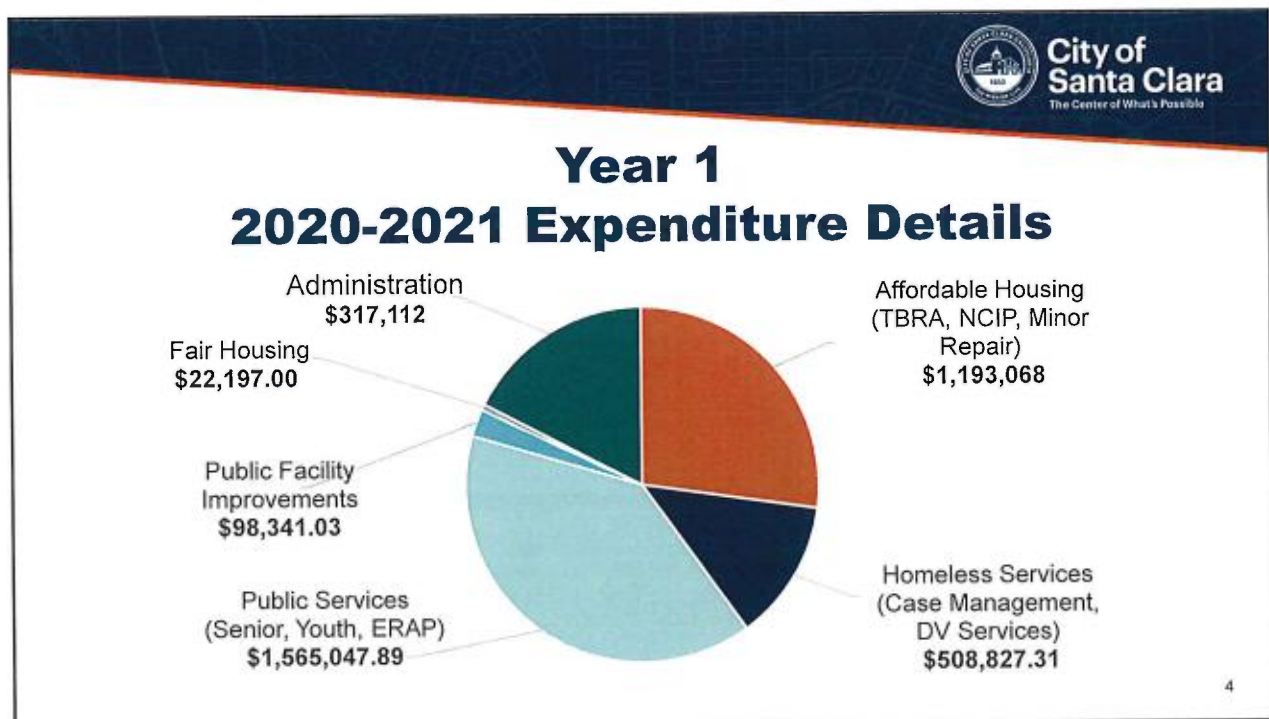
- Approve the 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and execute the documents for submission to the HUD by September 30, 2021.

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**Increase the Minimum Grant Amount
for Public Service Agencies (PSAs)**

- Currently, Housing staff administers 11 CDBG-funded contracts.
- The minimum grant amount is \$15,000 with some exceptions.
- Typical annual CDBG budget is approximately \$230,000.

<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p><i>Increase the minimum PSA grant to \$30,000 <u>AND</u> reduce the number of contracts/agencies.</i></p>	<p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p><i>Increase the minimum PSA grant to \$30,000 <u>AND</u> continue funding all 11 agencies by filling the gap with General Funds.</i></p>
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**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

Recommendation

1. Approve the 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) (Attachment 1) and authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to execute the documents for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by September 30, 2021 unless otherwise directed by HUD, and
2. Direct staff to incorporate all public comments into the final version to be submitted to HUD on or before September 30, 2021.

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09-28-21

ITEM #6

Melissa Meslo

From: Georgia Bacil <gbacil@sala.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 5:56 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comments from Senior Adults Legal Assistance on Agenda Item # 6 -- Public Hearing on 2020-2021 CAPER

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Santa Clara City Council,

Senior Adults Legal Assistance (SALA) submits these comments for the Public Hearing on the CAPER (Item #6 on the Agenda for your meeting this evening).

SALA provides free legal services to Santa Clara residents 62 or older, targeting clients that are low income or at risk of abuse, isolation, or loss of independence. SALA is a current grantee of Santa Clara CDBG Public Services funding and we thank you. While the CAPER summarizes information about the CDBG Public Services provided to Santa Clara residents in 2020-2021, it does not provide detail about SALA's services.

In 2020-21 SALA provided free legal services to 62 unduplicated Santa Clara clients age 62 or older. Forty eight percent (48%) were extremely low income (at or below 30% of the AMI), 45% had a disability, and 40% were 75 or older, factors placing them in great economic and social need.

In 2020-21 SALA provided our legal services remotely and primarily by phone because our in-person appointments at Santa Clara Senior Center were suspended due to COVID. When in-person services can be safely reinstated at senior centers, we hope SALA appointments will be available again at the Santa Clara Senior Center.

SALA provided services in a wide range of matters in 2020-2021. SALA assisted clients with problems involving the Public Benefits they relied on to meet basic needs, such as Social Security, SSI, Medicare, and Medi-Cal. Many agencies administering benefits are closed for in-person assistance during the pandemic, making it difficult if seniors do not have internet access or attorneys to assist them with "virtual" appeals. In 2020-2021 SALA also provided legal services to clients who were worried about evictions, even during moratoriums, or clients whose housing was in jeopardy such as those needing Reasonable Accommodations for a disability. SALA also assisted victims of Elder Abuse. A common theme in our Elder Abuse cases involved abusers living in the homes of our clients and Sheltering in Place with them during COVID. Lastly, SALA assisted clients requesting basic legal planning for incapacity or end stages of life with Powers of Attorney or Advance Health Care Directives. This planning continues to be important during this ongoing pandemic if seniors are gravely ill and their family members cannot be with them.

As a provider of legal services under the Older Americans Act, SALA cannot charge fees for our services or accept fee-generating cases. The primary way we support our services is through grants such as Santa Clara CDBG. Your CDBG funding also leverages matching funding from other sources to support our services to Santa Clara residents.

In summary, Santa Clara CDBG Public Services funding in FY 2020-21, and the matching funding it leveraged, helped us provide the highest level of service possible to 62 of your senior residents. We thank you again for your support of SALA's efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Bacil
Directing Attorney
Senior Adults Legal Assistance (SALA)

POST MEETING MATERIAL

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