

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

9. Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the City’s 2023-2024 Proposed Community Development Block Grant Program Annual Action Plan and Resolution Approving the Annual Action Plan and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign All Documents Required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Finding This Item is Not a Project Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

Name	Comment - 04/03/2023 02:45 PM : (No Vote)
Drake Cunningham	<p>For over 25 years, Rebuilding Together Petaluma (RTP) has been providing free critical home repairs and modifications for low-income seniors, veterans, and people living with disabilities in Petaluma. We have also provided free facilities repairs and maintenance for many of our social sector partners and our community spaces.</p> <p>RTP can provide these services because of the support and collaborative efforts of the city of Petaluma with RTP’s efficient staff and Board of Directors, a very supportive local business community, and a dedicated team of community volunteers, whose labor value provides 4x return on money spent for volunteer projects.</p> <p>RTP depends on grants, donations, fundraisers, and sponsorships to raise the funds needed to meet the annual needs of our community’s most vulnerable residents. While the community, often many of those same neighbors who are there on Volunteer Workdays, is very supportive financially, the CDBG grant is our main source of funding. It accounts for nearly 40% of our annual budget.</p> <p>To supplement our funding, we apply for over 20 grants each year from local, state, and national sources. These grants range from a few thousand dollars to \$25k. They come from government, corporate, and philanthropic sources. They are often very competitive, and success is never guaranteed.</p> <p>To further supplement our funding, we work with a generous team of local contractors and trades professionals to solicit donations of time and materials for those projects that require trades expertise. We also work with local vendors to solicit in-store credits and donations of building materials to help cover the direct costs on many of those projects.</p> <p>The past few years have been difficult for everyone, but especially for community service providers like RTP. The costs of materials have risen dramatically. Repairs that were deferred due to Covid restrictions are now far more deteriorated. And, in Petaluma in particular, the aging housing stock, especially mobile homes, are in desperate need of repairs to keep the homeowners warm, safe, and dry.</p> <p>Petaluma is fortunate to have the Rebuilding Together program. So many of our neighbors have no such support. This program continues to exist because of the support of the community and the city of Petaluma. The CDBG grant from the city of Petaluma makes that work possible.</p>