



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 19, 2020
TO: Christine Daniel, City Manager
FROM: Pedro Jimenez, Community Services Director
SUBJECT: **Consideration Of Commission On Aging Recommendation For Request To Fund The Gateway Program In The Amount Of \$2,500**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council consider and provide direction regarding the recommendation of the Commission on Aging to fund the Gateway Program in the amount of \$2,500.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Age Friendly Continuum is a partnership that is operated as part of Ashby Village. They operate "The Gateway Program" in the City of Berkeley. The Gateway Program is designed to support elders taking charge of their aging experiences. This prevention/early intervention effort uses a home visiting format to support Berkeley residents in achieving their aging objectives, which include steps to reduce illness and providing a resource binder. This program is currently in its pilot phase and is still seeking funding for its long-term sustainability. The Gateway Program representatives presented to the Senior Center members on April 5, 2019, and subsequently asked to present to the Commission on Aging.

DISCUSSION

Gateway Program representatives met with Senior Center staff on April 12, 2019 and October 2019 to discuss a proposal to expand their existing geographic service area to include Emeryville. The proposal included two options: (1) the \$2,500 start-up which would include up to 18 visits with individuals who either use the Emeryville Senior Center OR live in Emeryville with outreach conducted by Emeryville for 5 months, or (2) the \$5,000 start-up which would include up to 45 visits with both Emeryville and Gateway conducting outreach for 12 months and a renewal option.

The Commission on Aging received presentations from Gateway on May 8, 2019 and on December 11, 2019 at their regular meetings and subsequently recommended that the City pursue the \$2,500 start-up option.

Currently, community members, Senior Center staff and members of the Senior Center have resources that include Eden I&R 2-1-1, which is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week throughout the year and connects callers with health, housing and human services. They have trained resource specialists who have access to Eden I&R's comprehensive database of information about health, housing and human services programs available in

Alameda County. The information available through Eden I&R includes, but is not limited to, assistance with rent and utilities, food, emergency shelter, employment, medical (physical, mental and emotional health), transportation, and other critical needs and overall information for the aging population and their families. Information can be provided in over 300 different languages.

Another resource that is currently available to Senior Center members is Born to Age which provides and publishes a directory for older adults that is available by hard copy and online and includes health, housing and human services listings available in Alameda County.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the Gateway Program is not currently budgeted. If the City Council wishes to fund the program, it could allocate funds from another source, use one-time funds or reduce existing programming and reallocate funds. Examples of possible reductions include reducing Senior Center trips (from ten trips to eight) or removing 1-2 exercise/enrichment classes each week (from the 17 funded classes per week to 15). The removal of two trips per month would impact 44 participants each month. The removal of two classes would impact 40-150 participants each month. Alternatives could be to continue to have staff refer and support members of the Senior Center with information or access to Eden I&R 2-1-1 and Born to Age.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

The Commission on Aging received presentations from Gateway on May 8, 2019 and on December 11, 2019 at their regular meetings.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that the City Council give direction on the funding request. If the City Council supports the Commission on Aging recommendation, staff will return with a Resolution at a future meeting that identifies the necessary funding source.

PREPARED BY: Pedro Jimenez, Community Services Department

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



Christine Daniel, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Proposal