



Staff Report Item 10

TO: East Bay Community Energy Board of Directors
FROM: Nick Chaset, Chief Executive Officer
SUBJECT: CEO Report (Informational Item)
DATE: May 20, 2020

Recommendation

Accept Chief Executive Officer (CEO) report on update items below.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee met on April 24, 2020 and CEO Chaset gave an update on the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA). The next meeting will be held on Friday May 22, 2020 at 12 pm.

Finance, Administration and Procurement Subcommittee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday May 15, 2020 at 3 pm. The committee will review the draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2020 - 2021.

Marketing Regulatory and Legislative Subcommittee Meeting

The next Marketing, Regulatory and Legislative Subcommittee will be held on Thursday May 21, 2020 at 3 pm.

Marketing and Account Services Update

COVID-19 Relief Campaign

In April, EBCE launched a COVID-19 Relief campaign with an earmarked \$1.5 million toward community relief efforts in Alameda County. EBCE created a website that will catalog its relief efforts, available at: <https://ebce.org/covid>

Since the last Board meeting, the relief campaign has expanded to include additional disbursements for city relief efforts, as well as the solicitation and award for community grant proposals. Details on these contributions are listed below.

City/County Relief Funds or Selected Charity	
Berkeley Relief Fund	\$79,000
Hayward Community Relief Fund	\$126,500
Oakland COVID-19 Relief Fund	\$278,500
Alameda County COVID-19 Disaster Relief Emergency Fund/Disaster Relief Recovery Fund	\$88,500
CityServe Tri-Valley	\$42,000
Open Heart Kitchen of the Tri-Valley	\$27,000
Tri-Valley Haven Shelter/Food Pantry	\$10,000
Local Medical/Healthcare Support	
UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland	\$25,000
St. Rose Hospital (Hayward)	\$15,000
Alameda County Health System Foundation	\$40,000
Axis Health (Pleasanton)	\$10,000

List of Grant Recipients, each \$10,000
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- Abode Services:** Abode will assist in supporting utility bills for clients who are unable to pay them on time, support and subsidize rent for clients housed by Abode, provide food for food insecure clients, and provide shelter, transportation, and linkage to medical care for clients who are sick and who have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Adamika Village:** Adamika Village has been leading the charge in organizing the Oakland Frontline Healers, a collection of 20+ Black nonprofits in the flat land communities of Oakland. Adamika Village seeks to provide care packages and referral to services including their own in-house licensed therapist.
- Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS):** BOSS develops solutions to mass homelessness, mass incarceration, and community violence. Grant funds will be used to serve those experiencing homelessness, people of disabilities, and very low income by keeping stock on cleaning and PPE supplies and providing updates from health depts.
- Center for Elders' Independence:** Funds will be used to expand CEI's Healthy Meals for Frail Seniors program, ensuring that participants eat nutritious food regularly, maintain a healthy weight, avoid additional health problems, and live at home safely and independently.
- Cornerstone Community Development Corporation:** The mission of Building Futures with Women and Children is to build communities with underserved women and children, where they are safely and supportively housed, free from homelessness and domestic violence. Funds will be used for rent stabilization and wellness efforts.
- Covenant House California:** In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, Covenant House CA is working hard to maintain and increase the level of service they provide to youth experiencing homelessness. Funds will be used to expand medical facilities in their shelters and increase access to programs such as the Rapid Rehousing program.
- Daily Bowl:** Daily Bowl rescues excess edible blemished fresh and prepared food from farmers' markets, restaurant distributors, farms, co-ops, ethnic grocery stores, institutional kitchens, hospitals, restaurants, and catering companies. They distribute this resource to various non-profit agencies across Southern and Central Alameda County to feed the people who are hungry and vulnerable.
- East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC):** EBALDC provides affordable housing options and robust social and financial consulting services. SparkPoint Oakland provides financial and workforce services with a set of partners for low to moderate-income (LMI) Oakland residents, such as transitioning resident finances online.
- East Oakland Grocery Coop:** In response to our community's dire need for food resources, the East Oakland Grocery Cooperative (EOGC) and partners will come together to increase weekly food and resource distribution services in Oakland, via delivery and pick-up.

Eden Housing: Eden Housing works to maintain affordable housing communities for lower-income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities. They have created an emergency “Tenant Relief Fund” to offset the cost of rent and expanded services for our most at-risk low-income residents.

Eden I&R: Eden I&R’s largest program, 211 Alameda County, is a free, three-digit phone number that connects callers with a live Phone Resource Specialist 24/7 for health, housing, and human services information. Funds will be used to expand their services to best serve Alameda County.

First Presbyterian Church of Hayward: First Presbyterian Church of Hayward supports nearly 2,000 people in the Hayward-Castro Valley (Eden) area. Funds will be used to meet urgent medical needs among the houseless community and increase health and safety precautions for their overnight shelters, especially amidst this pandemic.

Fremont Family Resource Center Corporation: Fremont Family Resource Center provides quality services for the Fremont community such as tax preparation, mental health services, child care support, and homeless service assistance. Funds will be allocated to support families with their energy/utility bills and meal programs.

Healthy Black Families, Inc.: Founded in Berkeley in 2013, Healthy Black Families, Inc. (HBF) is one of few Black women-led organizations dedicated to providing culturally relevant peer support to African American women and their families. Funds will be used to cover rent, basic needs such as groceries, and health and wellness equipment for households.

Mandela Partners: For 15+ years, Mandela Partners has been leading health and wealth building initiatives to ensure that under-resourced regional farmers gain access to markets, low-income low-access residents gain access to healthy food, workers have dignified jobs opportunities, and local entrepreneurs have access to the resources and support needed to build intergenerational wealth. Funds will be used to provide free produce boxes and meal kits at relief partners sites.

NorCal Resilience Network: NorCal Resilience Network is leveraging their existing coalition of organizations and Resilience Hubs program to address critical food security needs that can scale up and replicate in a number of communities through their new program: Produce for the People. Funds will be used for expanding their garden efforts, food distribution and supplies, and scaling up.

Pacific Center for Human Growth: Pacific Center is a respected, grass-roots non-profit organization that has been serving LGBTQ youth, adults, and seniors in Alameda County, as well as the surrounding counties. Funds will go towards the cost associated with running their programs and services virtually, including therapy sessions and peer support groups.

Street Level Health Project: Street Level Health Project has been responsive to the needs of day laborers, low-to-no income uninsured, under-insured, and recently arrived immigrants. Funds will be used to support their food distribution programs, mental health consultations, and other existing services such as their hotline number providing advice on food assistance and translation support for Mam speakers.

Sunflower Hill: Sunflower Hill is dedicated to building independent residential communities for adults with developmental disabilities. Funds will go to maintaining the Sunflower Hill Garden for the purpose of harvesting and donating produce. Additionally, staff will work collaboratively to develop creative virtual options to keep their program participants engaged and connected.

The Davis Street Community Center: Davis Street is a multi-service organization, supporting children, families, seniors, and individuals in need throughout San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, Ashland, and the Eden Area. Funds will be used to purchase food, cleaning supplies, and protective equipment for their food bank.

Tri-City Health Center (TCHC): TCHC supports patients in need of emergency rental assistance suffering from financial hardship or potential eviction. Funds will also support patients most at-risk, enrolled in the HIV Care Program that provides comprehensive HIV services, case management, medication support, early intervention services, access to behavioral health care, and assistance with housing, food, and other basic needs.

Tri-Valley Haven for Women (TVH): Tri-Valley Haven’s mission is to create homes free from abuse and poverty and ensuring vital services are accessible during the COVID-19 outbreak. Funds will be used to provide groceries for families and individuals in economic need as well as providing financial support for the TVH staff overseeing the largest food pantry in the Tri-Valley.

Promoting Customer Financial Assistance through CARE

In early May, EBCE staff launched a number of resources and pushed communications related to the California Alternate Rates for Energy Program, also known as CARE. The state-funded program provides a discount of 35% on the electricity bill for low-income and qualified households. The resources included a landing page at <https://ebce.org/care/> with a brief tutorial video, Frequently Asked Questions, and an easily accessible link to apply for the program.

Staff reached out to a network of stakeholders to help spread the word of this program, which resulted in this information being passed along in many local government newsletters, community-based organizations' social media, and local media coverage. As of May 13, the dedicated page had over 1,300 views.

We will continue to push this message out to local residents through additional digital advertising, social media, emails, and direct mail. Staff will report on on-going work and results at future meetings.