

October 21, 2024: Equity Committee Meeting

**ORESJ's recommendation for East Bay Community Foundation to administer \$1 million Measure X funds towards African American wellness services.**

**Vision for African American Holistic Wellness services in Contra Costa County**

Upon receipt of the Measure X Community Advisory Board's prioritized funding recommendations, on December 12, 2023, the Board of Supervisors directed that a one-time allocation of \$1,000,000 of Measure X funds be allocated for the purpose of supporting the "African American Holistic Wellness Resource Hub and existing services" in Contra Costa County. While advocacy for funds to address the systemic harms experienced by Black communities in the county has taken place for years, the impetus of this funding allocation was the pain and trauma stemming from the text message scandal involving the Antioch and Pittsburg Police Departments. These funds are an immediate, intermediary step to what is expected to be an increased, long-term investment in Black communities' overall well-being and holistic health.

**Procurement and Distribution of Funds**

- Partner with a local community foundation with extensive experience supporting Black-led and Black-serving organizations to serve as a contracted agency tasked with overseeing and carrying out procurement, selection, and fund distribution responsibilities, as well as monitoring of progress and assessing outcomes.
- The ORESJ will coordinate and lead a community and resident participatory process that includes review of RFP applications and recommendation of awardees (for Board of Supervisors approval).
- Over the last several Equity Committee meetings, the proposal included releasing the funding in two annual phases:
  - \$500,000 in phase 1 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)
  - \$500,000 in phase 2 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)
  - However, at the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Equity Committee provided direction to allocate the full \$1 million allocation in one funding phase (January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025) with an option for a no-cost extension (up to 12 months) for those awardees who request additional time to administer the program.
- While applications for funds will be accepted for all of Contra Costa County, programs and initiatives serving East County's most impacted communities will be prioritized.
- These awards are expected to augment and/or expand existing services or programs by increasing capacity (e.g. serve more participants, host additional events, extend program periods).
- Based on MXCAB key areas of need, community input, and existing research data, the proposed service/program categories to be prioritized are:

- Mental health supports
- Food insecurity services
- Maternal and infant health services
- Youth development support/services
- Community healing, particularly from trauma due to police violence

**Equity Committee Update: October 21, 2024**

After a failed RFQ attempt (June 2024), on September 11, 2024, an abbreviated RFQ was released to solicit the partnership of a community foundation to administer the \$1M in grant funds. Statements of qualification were due on October 4, 2024, and five applications were received by the deadline. Applications were received from Antioch Community Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation, Heluna Health, RCF Connects and The Praxis Project.

The ORESJ convened a five-member review panel that included reviewers who identify as Black/African American (4) and Asian (1 reviewer). They have extensive experience serving within Contra Costa County community foundations as Executive Director, Board Member, and Advisor, and have engaged in direct funding and relationship building with Black-led and Black-serving organizations in the county.

- Between October 7-October 13, 2024, a five-member review committee independently reviewed the proposals using the scoring rubric provided in the original RFQ and submitted their respective scores for each proposal.
- On October 14, 2024, the review committee met and shared their scores, deliberated collectively on their assessments of the proposals, and unanimously ranked East Bay Community Foundation as the top applicant to be recommended for award.

The following table outlines the final scores and ranking of the five applicants.

<b>Community Foundation</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
<b>East Bay Community Foundation</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Richmond Community Foundation</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Antioch Community Foundation</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The Praxis Project</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Heluna Health</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>5</b>