

## EXHIBIT B: RFP BACKGROUND

On November 3, 2020, voters in Contra Costa County approved Measure X, a Countywide, 20-year, half-cent sales tax. The ballot measure language stated the intent of Measure X was “to keep Contra Costa’s regional hospital open and staffed; fund community health centers, emergency response; support crucial safety-net services; invest in early childhood services; protect vulnerable populations; and for other essential county services.” A primary purpose of Measure X is to help fill gaps in funding to support critical and essential needs and services in the community.

Following the approval of Measure X, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors established a **Community Advisory Board** comprised of community representatives from a diversity of fields and perspectives. The Community Advisory Board was charged with:

- Overseeing an annual assessment of community needs
- Creating a detailed priority list of the top service gaps based on the results from the Needs Assessment
- Using the Needs Assessment to make funding priority recommendations to the Board of Supervisors annually
- Providing an Annual Report on the outcomes and impact of allocated funds

From October 2021-February 2022, the Board of Supervisors heard extensive presentations regarding the allocation of Measure X funding. The Board adopted the Community Advisory’s Boards recommendations that the allocation of Measure X funding fall under [5 key community goals](#):

- **Goal #1: Mental Well-Being:** We strive to be a community that supports the mental and behavioral health and well-being of all residents through prevention, crisis response services, intersectional supports, and innovative cross-sector approaches.
- **Goal #2: Equity in Action:** We strive to be a community that prioritizes equity and removes structural barriers that cause inequities and poverty, so that all residents can thrive.
- **Goal #3: Healthy Communities:** We strive to be a community in which all residents have access to affordable, timely, culturally responsive healthcare; adequate housing; high-quality childcare; and nutritious food, all of which have become more urgent as we address the ravages of the pandemic.

- **Goal #4: Intergenerational Thriving:** We strive to be a community that intentionally strengthens and provides support for all residents and for family members of all generations, including children, youth, and older adults.
- **Goal #5: Welcoming & Safe Community:** We strive to be a community where all residents feel safe and welcome and receive emergency help when they need it.

On November 16, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved and committed a portion of Measure X funds for the creation of the Measure X **Housing Fund** to support the development of new affordable housing, housing related services (including homeless prevention services), innovation/capacity building activities, and homeless crisis response services. The **Housing Fund** falls under Goal #3 “Healthy Communities” which strives to ensure that all Contra Costa County residents have access to adequate housing.

In preparation for the creation of this RFP, Contra Costa County conducted community engagement efforts in the form of stakeholder interviews, town halls, focus groups and community surveying. These engagement efforts aimed to 1) Gather further clarity around the gaps in services related to Homeless Crisis Response and Homeless Prevention, Innovation and Capacity Building that exist in the county and 2) solicit feedback from the community on how to craft a more equitable RFP process that would lower application barriers for small organizations and BIPOC-led agencies. The results of the data that was collected during these efforts will be posted on the Contra Costa County website.