

**Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department  
Community Services Bureau  
Major Facility Renovation Grant – 09CH010862**

**Overview**

Contra Costa County Community Services Bureau (CSB) of the Employment and Human Services Department is requesting a to utilize Head Start funds to contribute to the cost of the relocation and renovation of the CSB's Central Kitchen. The Central Kitchen provides over 30,000 meals a month to 14 centers serving children and families in need, resulting in 2/3 of a child's daily nutritional needs.

The County's Employment and Human Services, Community Services Bureau (CSB) has been providing high quality and nutritious food to all CSB Head Start centers from the Central Kitchen "hub" since 1990. The Central Kitchen which is currently located at the Brookside Center is in urgent need of relocation due to a several major issues. The center, once the County's Juvenile Detention Facility, is located between two active railroad tracks and two retired Chevron and PG&E pipelines. CSB has learned that the location of the center has been contaminated due to petroleum leaks from the pipelines as well as from former underground storage tanks. The proximity of two BNSF railroad tracks on either side of the center also poses health and safety concerns. Research shows that diesel exhaust, which is emitted by freight trains, contributes to cancer, asthma, heart disease, premature birth, and other health conditions. Due to these concerns as well as the fact that the facility is aging and in need of on-going costly repairs, CSB closed the childcare portion of this center in June of 2018 and relocated the children and staff elsewhere.

Since the center closed and the kitchen has remained on site, the growing homeless population around the railroad tracks and center has posed an ongoing health and safety risk for current

**Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department  
Community Services Bureau  
Major Facility Renovation Grant – 09CH010862**

staff. CSB pays for Public Works Hazardous-Material crews to come each week to clean feces and needles from the growing encampments around the center; and a fire was started at one of the encampments, forcing the center to evacuate. The county vehicles used to transport food from the kitchen to our centers have been routinely vandalized resulting in costly repairs such as replacement of stolen catalytic converters and gas tank that have been punctured in order to steal the gas contained therein.

Currently the Central Kitchen is still housed at this location; however, CSB has identified an alternate location (303 41<sup>st</sup> St. in Richmond) for it at an existing county building nearby. We anticipate the total cost of the project to be \$2.3 million and will be securing the funding through a variety of sources. **This request in the amount of \$995,000 will go towards the total costs of ensuring we can continue to serve our 14 locations county-wide each day.**

CSB is requesting to allocate \$995,000 of available funds from Grant 09CH010862 to the new Kitchen project and is therefore submitting an application in accordance with section 1303 of the Head Start Program Performance Standards. CSB referred to the Performance Standards, the Head Start Act, and the National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations Facility Purchase, Construction, or Major Renovation Using Head Start Funds checklist to prepare this application.