

**Application Deadline: June 30, 2020 by 5 p.m.**

**Complete applications may be submitted in the following ways:**

- For questions, email [svcares@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:svcares@sunnyvale.ca.gov) or call 408-730-7607.

Name of Individual Submitting Application: Robinette McDivitt

Grant Amount Requesting from the City (Maximum grant amount is \$30,000): \$ 30,000

1. When was your organization formed?

## 2. What is your Mission?

Downtown Streets Team (DST) is ending homelessness by restoring the dignity and rebuilding the lives of unhoused men and women throughout the Bay Area.

3. Approximately how many Sunnyvale customers are served annually?

Last year alone, Downtown Streets Team Sunnyvale worked alongside 95 individuals to provide a variety of supportive services to help them overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. We supported 25 individuals secure housing, 17 individuals secure employment along with supporting all Team Members in the removal of multiple barriers towards their goal of employment and housing.

Before COVID-19, our staff worked alongside our Team Members to provide peer-to-peer outreach to more than 100 others experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. These outreach services include light-touch case management services, hygiene kits, direct referrals, a listening ear, and validation adding up to more than 300 interactions as there are always multiple barriers.

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4. Describe your group's activities and the resources that support those activities.

DST takes pride in offering a platform where individuals experiencing homelessness can volunteer in beautification projects and regain their self-esteem, confidence and eventually, control of their success. Once they join DST, they become "Team Members"; Team Members (TM's) provide great value to partnered non-profits, local government, corporate sponsors, environmental groups and the greater community. In exchange, TM's earn food/basic needs assistance, housing search assistance, housing/shelter placement, case management, transportation assistance, job search skills classes, employment placement, and more; all while rebuilding their dignity and rejoining society. We operate in Palo Alto, CA, Sunnyvale, CA, San Jose, CA, Santa Cruz, CA, Hayward, CA, Berkeley, CA, San Francisco, CA, San Rafael, CA, Modesto, CA, Novato, CA, Sacramento, CA, West Sacramento, CA and Petaluma, CA

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5. What is your annual budget? \$8,464,783.00

6. How do you raise funds?

We have diverse revenue streams for many different contracts, as well as organizational and community based activities and events to include; in person, direct mail, email and social media/online fundraisers, table events, facilitate resource drives or hold onsite fundraisers at organizations and businesses throughout the communities we support.

**Any/all funds generated from this grant will be allocated directly to the Sunnyvale community operation.**

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7. How many employees does your organization have? 71 employees

8. What steps has your organization taken to address budget impacts due to COVID-19?

We're hoping to raise **\$500,000 total** for our COVID-19 relief fund because a percentage of our revenue comes from fee-for-service contracts which we may not be able to perform. So in short, we've seen an increase of individuals we support since we're still helping past program participants who've been impacted by this pandemic and lost their jobs, but we expect a shortfall due to the prorate we'll see when we fail to perform the fee-for-service contracts. We've already had \$30,000 donated by Redwood Credit Union, \$10,000 come from Adobe, and 800 hand sanitizers donated by EO Products, along with many individual donors, but we still have a long way to go to reach our goal of \$500k which would serve 600 people for a two-month period.

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9. Describe the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on your organization, specifically, what are the financial impacts?

We have diverse revenue streams for many different contracts, but for some of our fee-for-service contracts we may experience some disruption if we're not able to fulfill the service. It's hard to predict which contracts we may lose but it could be an average of \$30,000 per community. We have been unable to table events, facilitate resource drives or hold onsite fundraisers at organizations and businesses throughout the communities we support.

**Any/all funds generated from this grant will be allocated directly to the Sunnyvale community operation.**

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10. For what purposes would this grant be used and how would it benefit your organization and customers?

We are funding the basic needs stipends that we give to individuals who experience homelessness and usually participate in our work experience program. Although our work-experience program is on hold for safety precautions, we are checking in with them over the phone and in-person once a week. We give everyone who stays engaged with us \$100/week to get them through these hard times and fill in the gaps that government funding isn't enough for - \$100 is the amount we were already giving them prior to social distancing and health precautions. They use the stipend for needs that include (but aren't limited to) sanitation and hygiene products, portable chargers, food, and everything else they've needed more of. This isn't just important because it addresses a need, this is imperative to

keeping them on track towards their goals after this pandemic transpires. We want to do everything to stop them from taking backwards steps, we still want them to be self-sufficient one day and we want to help them navigate the 'new normal' which includes different office hours for other resources they need right now that may not be considered 'essential' (i.e. What happens if you lose your ID/drivers license but the DMV is closed? Who do you turn to?) We've also experienced a plethora of graduates come back for support after they've lost their jobs.

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11. Any other information you would like the Council Committee to consider?

We're expecting to have an increase in expenses because we are serving the individuals who we've placed in employment opportunities and a lot of those employers have let their employees go unexpectedly. We've already received a large number of messages from Team Members that graduated from our program for assistance during this hard time. We will support their basic needs using gift cards that they can use for hygiene/sanitation supplies and food.

The impact could be catastrophic without our service. Without the proper hygiene or sanitation, a lot of individuals could continue to spread COVID-19. Unfortunately, the usual businesses that a lot of them use to 'bird bath' or use a restroom to wash up in, aren't open so they aren't available. Our case managers have boots to the ground to pass out wipes and sanitizers. Without the portable charging blocks we're hoping to give out to those in need, there's no way they could call for an emergency if they experienced it while their phone was dead. Without covering their basic needs, they have to resort to panhandling in a lot of cases, which will lead to a lack of social distancing. Or they'll be forced to rely on the support of a peer who also experiences homelessness, eating together in close proximity because they couldn't buy their own food, which will continue to exacerbate the pandemic. Our ecosystems vulnerability is contingent on the vulnerability of the most vulnerable. If we don't address this epidemic in the most vulnerable communities, it will continue to spread to the general public and unfortunately, there could be a lot more people dying on the street. The homeless already are usually predisposed to a lot of the health conditions that COVID-19 preys upon (diabetes, hypertension, lung disease, and high blood pressure). We're hoping we can have help to flatten the curve by checking in with the people who don't have anyone checking on them.

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