

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Documents Received after
Agenda Publication

Evelyn Olivera

From: Amy Cole-Bloom
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 3:37 PM
To: Kim Olson; Emily Hwang
Cc: Evelyn Olivera
Subject: RE: Public Comment: Community Services Commission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Kim,

Confirming receipt – thank you for submitting! This will be sent to commissioners at 4:00 and will be published as part of the documents received after the agenda was published.

Thanks,

Amy

Amy Cole-Bloom, PhD (she/her/hers)
Community Services Manager
City of Hayward
amy.cole@hayward-ca.gov | 510.583.4201

Please note: Although I may send emails outside of regular business hours, I do not expect a response until your normal working hours.

From: Kim Olson <Kim@sosmow.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 3:31 PM
To: Amy Cole-Bloom <Amy.Cole@hayward-ca.gov>; Emily Hwang <Emily.Hwang@hayward-ca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment: Community Services Commission

CAUTION: This is an external email. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Hello Emily and Amy,

Thank you for keeping us informed on the City's cuts of the Community Services Grants. The attached letter is public comment for the Commission. If you need a shorter statement, or any other info from us, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best wishes,

Kim

Kim Olson (she/her)

Director of Advocacy

2235 Polvorosa Avenue, Suite 260 | San Leandro, CA 94577

www.sosmow.org | Office: 510-340-7939 | Cell: 503-473-2991



November 19, 2025

City of Hayward
Community Services Commission

Dear Community Services Commissioners,

On behalf of SOS Meals on Wheels and the nearly 500 older Hayward residents we serve each year, I'd like to thank each Commissioner for your time and service to improve the lives and health of older low-income Hayward residents. At last year's grant review meeting, I saw first hand the great care put into the Community Grant application review process, and the broad impact these grants were making in the community. In order to continue our vital services in Hayward and meet the growing need for senior services, SOS Meals on Wheels asks that the City Council reconsider the revocation of these funds for FY 2026-27.

This year, the funds granted through the Community Agency Funding Process will help us serve 80,000 nutritious meals to homebound seniors in Hayward. Specifically, funds from this grant are used to cover expenses for raw food, meal preparation, and packaging, as well as program costs related to client services. SOSMOW additionally receives funding from the City of Hayward through Measure BB, which is restricted to transportation. In short, without the additional Community Agency grants, the City of Hayward is funding the *wheels* but not the *meals*.

Not only must we consider the consequences of direct cuts to our own funding, we must also consider the impact of external forces on demand for our services and changes to client needs. For example, cuts to SNAP, CalFresh, Medicare or other entitlement programs that are heavily utilized by seniors will have two major impacts: creating additional food insecurity among our existing client base, and causing more seniors to seek out our services.

Experiencing funding cuts at the same time we're seeing demand for our services increase could be catastrophic for our clients. Here are some relevant statistics about the older neighbors we serve in Hayward:

- In 2024-25, we served 495 older neighbors in Hayward a total of 81,929 meals

- 95.5% are in the “Extremely Low” or “Very Low” income bracket, according to the HUD definition
- 63.2% of these clients identify as underrepresented minorities

Additional information about our client base from our anonymous annual survey (last administered in June) is as follows:

- 49% reported worrying about having enough money for food in the past year
- 32% experienced problems making food last and running out of food without the means to get more
- 45% reported that they don't have access to any caregiving support
- 32% reported that they have no ability to all to cook for themselves and 51% reported that they are only able to cook for themselves sometimes

The Meals on Wheels program reduces food insecurity, enhances nutrition, and decreases feelings of isolation for Hayward’s senior population. Increasing our meal production and leveraging our delivery capabilities is the fastest way—and the best way—that this particular population can see an immediate increase in their access to food. We strongly recomend that City Council reconsider the revocation of these funds, and continue thier full investment services that foster a healthier, more connected community where our older neighbors can thrive.

Thank you,



Kim Olson
Director of Advocacy, SOS Meals on Wheels