

Encampment Resolution Fund

In December 2021, the City applied for Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) seeking resources from the State of California to fund a local demonstration project, which would provide services to address the immediate crisis of experiencing unsheltered homelessness in encampments; support people living in encampments onto paths to safe and stable housing; and result in sustainable restoration of public spaces to their intended uses while safeguarding the needs of unhoused people seeking shelter. Applications were required to focus on one encampment site. City staff selected the Castro Encampment for this funding application.

On February 24, 2022, the City was provided a notice of intent to award the ERF. The City Council accepted the grant at its April 5, 2022, meeting. The City received the ERF Grant of \$4.8 million in July 2022.

Summary of Richmond's Project

The ERF grant, \$4.8 million, will include resources to hire an ERF Project Manager who will lead the Castro Site Care Team (SCT), which will include a Site Manager, Housing Navigators, a dedicated CORE team, comprised of an outreach specialist and social worker, and other providers working directly with encampment residents to triage and ensure services are timely, responsive, coordinated, trauma-informed, and achieving goals and objectives.

The Castro Encampment Resolution Project (CERP) encompasses a two-year plan to deliver an array of supportive services to 100+ individuals currently living in a sprawling 2.66-acre vehicle encampment near North Castro and Hensley Streets. **The project aims to move all encampment residents into stable housing by June 2023, and the site to be restored to its original condition by June 2024, the grant deadline date.**

CERP's goals and objectives will be met in stages that include improving living conditions at the site, assessing the behavioral and health needs of residents, providing job-related training and support, and reducing barriers to stable housing. Grounded in Housing First principles and one of just 10 projects statewide that received Encampment Resolution Funding in 2022 from the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council, CERP is an innovative model whose successes—and challenges—will be continuously evaluated, so that the approach can be refined and replicated throughout the State.