

Title: **West Portal Disaster Preparedness Program**

Project Budget: **\$25,000**

Contact Info:

Name: Libby Noronha
Organization: Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association
Address: P.O. Box 27116
San Francisco, CA 94127
Phone: **TO INCLUDE**
Email: **TO INCLUDE**

Categories: **Neighborhood Services**
Other: Disaster Preparedness & Relief

*In the space below ONLY, please describe your project proposal, including your goals and vision for the project. **

The Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association (GWPNA) is seeking this participatory budget grant to support our efforts to launch a neighborhood disaster preparedness program. Since 1974, GWPNA has been advocating for the health and well-being of our community. GWPNA has a long history of partnering with City Departments and Agencies to address issues such as traffic safety, crime, and other quality of life issues.

Like most communities, West Portal neighbors were deeply concerned by what transpired during the recent fires in Sonoma and Napa Counties. Even more recently, fires have blazed across Southern California close to Los Angeles. Disproportionately the people who have died were residents who were older, less mobile and didn't have the immediate support of family and friends in the few short moments they had to evacuate and get out of harm's way.

As stewards of our community, GWPNA began researching what other neighborhoods are doing to prepare for the next disaster and came across the work being done by the Miraloma Park Improvement Club (MPIC) and the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association (METNA). Both neighborhoods have partnered with the City's Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN) and deployed a system called the Empowered Communities Program (ECP). The ECP helps communities create a resilience action plan that provides residents, local businesses, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and the community at large with a game plan to get prepared as well as a platform to work together for the first 72 hours after a disaster and help arrives.

We hope to replicate the success that MPIC and METNA have had in getting the resources and training that residents need so that when the next "big one" hits, we'll be ready to help ourselves and our neighbors and keep West Portal a healthy, happy and thriving community.

The name of the project is **Resilient West Portal**.

*In the space below ONLY, please describe the need in D7 for your project. **

From intense winter storms that knock out power and cause flooding to lethal heatwaves that took the lives of District 7 residents, the changing climate is putting our vulnerable residents under incredible stress; and that doesn't include the inevitable massive earthquake. In many cases, local community serving organizations (CBOs) can provide an alternate safety net for these residents, but District 7 has disproportionately fewer CBOs than the rest of the City and many of its most vulnerable residents sit alone in their homes and grow more isolated and distanced from those around them every day.

The introduction of the NEN's ECP will help GWPNA reverse this trend of isolation and under-preparedness and increase the capacity of local agencies and organizations to work as a cohort to support the health and well-being needs of all residents before, during and after a disaster.

*In the space below ONLY, please describe the budget for your project. (Please be as detailed as possible and itemize your budget.) **

Resilient West Portal is seeking funding to craft and implement a resilience action plan that will advance the preparedness of the West Portal community at the individual, organizational and community levels. The funding will be distributed in the following manner:

1. Creation of a West Portal Resilient Action Plan (\$10,000) – A key component of the NEN's Empowered Community Program is the creation of a resilience action plan. By starting with a blank slate and convening local stakeholders to participate in a facilitated process that generates goals and objectives that are customized to the unique needs of the West Portal community, GWPNA believes that more people will get involved in the activities necessary to increase our communities over all disaster preparedness. The planning process last approximately 4 months and involves multiple stakeholder meetings and workshops. In addition, the funding will cover free trainings and up to five organizations receiving technical support for updating their continuity of operations plans. At the end of the year, the community will participate in a tabletop exercise to test the skills and capacities they have developed. The \$10,000 will be used to retain a local non-profit disaster resilience consulting firm.
2. Acquisition of equipment to support a neighborhood emergency operations center (\$10,000) – After a major disaster, such as an earthquake, West Portal can expect to be on its own for at least 72 hours before any professional first responder help will arrive. During this period, the neighborhood will need to meet the health and well-being needs of its residents on its own by setting up a neighborhood emergency operations center (NEOC). In addition to needing to set up a staging area that will most likely be outdoors and away from potentially damaged buildings, the NEOC will also need to be able to function with very limited, if any, access to electricity and standard communications systems (i.e. cell phones and landlines). The goal is to secure a similar suite of pop up shelters, solar powered generators and communication devices that the MPIC was able to secure for their staging area. The budget of \$10,000 will cover:
 - a. Pop-Up Tents and Accessories
 - b. Solar Powered Generators

c. Walkie Talkies and Mesh Network Devices

3. Senior Preparedness Training and Kits (\$5,000) – Everyone deserves the chance to increase their individual preparedness and GWPNA wants to provide its senior residents with free access to preparedness trainings that are customized for their needs as well as provide them with disaster kits that they can use to protect their health and well-being after a disaster. The funding (\$5,000) will be used to retain a non-profit disaster preparedness firm as well as disaster kits for seniors in the community.

*In the space below ONLY, please describe who will benefit from your project (i.e. youth, small businesses, low-income families, English language learners, etc.) **

The goal of the Resilient West Portal project will be to advance the preparedness of all members of the community. Small businesses, seniors, people with access & functional needs, families of all income levels, local non-profits and faith based organizations will all receive direct, or indirect, benefit from this initiative.

*In the space below ONLY, please outline what outcomes you would use to measure your project's success. **

Resilient West Portal will measure its success by the following metrics:

1. Number of individuals and agencies that participate in the development of the West Portal Resilience Action Plan
2. The number of agencies that take advantage of the free continuity of operations technical support
3. The number of seniors that participate in the preparedness workshops
4. The number of seniors who secure a disaster preparedness kit
5. The number of residents and agencies that participate in the neighborhood table top exercise

*In the space below ONLY, please enter the title of your project as you would like it to appear if selected for the ballot. (10 word limit) **

Your answer

West Portal Disaster Preparedness Program

*In the space below ONLY, please include a brief description of your project as you would like it to appear if selected for the ballot (100 words limit) **

Recent disasters in Sonoma and Napa counties, along with the rash of fires across California, have inspired the Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association (GWPNA) to do more to ensure the safety of

our residents, especially the vulnerable, during times of disaster. Building on the success of nearby neighborhoods, Miraloma Park and Merced Extension Triangle, GWPNA would like to create and implement a customized disaster preparedness plan and establish a neighborhood emergency operations center. Partnering with the Fire Department, local businesses, and community groups, this funding will allow our community to be proactive and support the needs of our community for at least 72 hours after a disaster.

Is your proposal a supplement or an addition to an existing project or program? *

Yes

If YES, Please explain.

GWPNA is partnering with the San Francisco Fire Department to ensure our neighbors are NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) trained. Training will begin in March 2018. The participatory budget support will build off of this training to develop the disaster preparedness plan.

*In the space below ONLY, please include any support you currently have for your project (e.g. endorsements from a neighborhood group, small business, school, etc.): **

GWPNA will work with the West Portal Merchants Association and surrounding schools on this program.

*Matching funds and/or material resources you have already secured: **

GWPNA will provide the logistical support and coordinate trainings with respective City Agencies.