



Calistoga Family Center
Healthy Families. Strong Community.

May 27, 2011

Richard Spitler, City Manager
City of Calistoga
1232 Washington Street
Calistoga, Ca 94515

Re: Agreement with Calistoga Family Center
Renewal of Authorizing Agreement No. 0414

Dear Mr. Spitler:

I want to thank you for prompt response to my phone call last week and my inquiry regarding the Calistoga budget. I understand that you could not provide me with a definitive answer as to whether the City of Calistoga would be able to renew its contract with the Calistoga Family Center. However, I am writing this letter to provide you with an explanation as to the nature of the Calistoga Family Center's ("CFC") relationship with the City of Calistoga and CFC's importance to the community. CFC was founded in 1999 and is the only social service agency in the Calistoga area. Since 2002, the City of Calistoga has provided CFC with financial support in exchange for its services. In our most recent Professional Service Agreement - 0414, the term of the Agreement was July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 and CFC was paid ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

CFC provides the following services:

1. Broad education and outreach to families with children to inform them of all of the services provided locally by CFC, its partner agencies and the City of Calistoga Community Services Department. Specific populations for targeted outreach include single-parent families, kin caregiver families, seniors and monolingual Spanish speakers. Outreach includes distribution of a monthly calendar through the schools, information on local television and radio stations, community presentations and personal phone calls.
2. The CFC Community Liaison provides guided referrals for 75 families each month to recreation services, housing resources, medical and dental services, prenatal care, health insurance, community resources, legal assistance, preschool and childcare opportunities, and other family supports. The Community Liaison meets with families individually to select the appropriate local service.
3. CFC provides translation and application assistance for 25 families each month for rental and employment issues, food and shelter programs. The Community Liaison assists to complete applications and to translate and explain documents.

CFC is requesting that the City renew its contract for July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. These funds support the Strong Community Program which is the heart of the Calistoga Family Center. The program serves the hundreds of families who cannot access services outside of Calistoga. Traditionally, CFC has served the Latino population and we are proud of our ability to provide outreach to the Latino community. Recently, CFC has seen an increased number of Anglo elders requesting emergency medical, rental and transportation assistance. CFC anticipates that it will be serving more seniors in the future. Through the Strong Communities' guided referral services, CFC has made as many as 1800 referrals to individuals in one year. These individuals are referred to different agencies. CFC serves as the hub of these services. Our partners provide services in Calistoga. Some of these agencies include Legal Aid of Napa Valley, Family Law Facilitators, Greater Napa Fair Housing, Sister Anne's Dental Clinic, Pediatric Dental Initiative, Healthy Moms & Babies, Family Services of Napa Valley and Wolfe Center.

Unfortunately, CFC has already been advised that it is likely that its Napa county funding will be eliminated. If CFC's city funding is eliminated or reduced, CFC will either have to reduce Strong Community services or reallocate funds which will adversely affect CFC's other services. An example of a program which could be adversely affected is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program ("VITA"). This year, CFC staff and volunteers assisted in the filing of **185 tax returns resulting in \$315, 683.00** in tax refunds. United Way funds this program but its funding does not cover staff expenses. Notwithstanding this fact, CFC has continued to operate the VITA clinic due to its positive effect on our residents and the City of Calistoga. Residents, receiving refunds, will spend the money in this community. Another example of an affected program is the GED program. Students who age out of the Palisades High School routinely turn to our GED program. Unfortunately, United Way has eliminated its funding for the program and this program may cease to exist. CFC is currently seeking additional funding to support the program. Finally, with a senior population requesting additional services, CFC had hoped to increase its outreach to the senior population as we believe lack of communication may be one of the existing problems in the senior community. CFC, with the assistance of Supervisor Diane Dillon, is planning a "Conference for Seniors" in late summer/early fall to address and answer many of the senior issues that were raised at CFC Meeting for Seniors held in March. Needless to say, the elimination of City funding will make it difficult to save or sustain these programs due to the "ripple effect" of the loss of any funding.

I am willing to appear before the City Council to answer any of their questions regarding CFC's services and I will attend the Budget Workshop on May 31st. I hope that the City of Calistoga will recognize CFC's contributions and continue to support CFC by renewing the Agreement. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Victoria Li
Executive Director
Calistoga Family Center

Cc: Mayor Jack Gingles
Calistoga City Council
Calistoga Family Center Board Members