

BLUE FOLDER ITEM

Blue folder items are additional back up material to administrative reports and/or public comments received after the printing and distribution of the agenda packet for receive and file.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 14, 2026

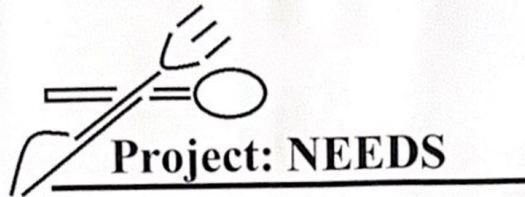
**L.1 PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT INPUT ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE GRANT
RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

PROCEDURE:

- a. Open the Public Hearing and take testimony;
- b. Solicit input on the public service grant recommendations and the draft FY 2026-27 Annual Action Plan; and
- c. Continue the Public Hearing to May 12, 2026

CONTACT: ELIZABETH HAUSE, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

- **Letter from Project: NEEDS**



A Hunger Outreach Ministry of St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

Project: NEEDS is a hunger outreach program of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in North Redondo Beach. Project: NEEDS works to alleviate hunger in our community, as a safety net for those who are food insecure. We serve families, seniors, veterans, the unhoused and individuals in need throughout our community. For 36 years, we have been serving our community by providing food and essential necessities through our Tuesday hot meal service and pantry day. We serve 70 guests for dinner each week and we have over 1000 registered pantry guests.

We proudly partner with over 50 local organizations – including philanthropic groups, youth organizations, Girl and Boy Scout Troops, schools, businesses, stores, and neighbors to care for our community. These partnerships also provide valuable opportunities for youth to volunteer, learn about food insecurity and homelessness, and be inspired to become the next generation of compassionate community leaders.

We are deeply grateful to the city for standing with us in this important mission and for your generous grant support, which helps make our work possible. Your partnership allows us to continue caring for those in need in our community, and we are sincerely appreciative of your ongoing support.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Barr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donna" being more prominent than the last name "Barr".

Donna Barr

Executive Director, Project: NEEDS, St. Paul's UMC

(310) 370-4319

Our Beginnings...

In March 1990, St. Paul's United Methodist Church was asked to act as a counting station for the first ever homeless census count. Willing volunteers helped to serve a warm meal and distribute clothing, blankets and hygiene items. Through the interaction between church people and the homeless, many volunteers were made aware of the needs of the homeless in our local community. One man in particular was extremely touched and wanted to somehow embrace the homeless population and show them that there were people who really cared. It was from this strong conviction that Project: NEEDS was born.

Project: NEEDS Provides...

- A warm, home cooked meal served every Tuesday from 5:15 pm – 6:30 pm.
- Clothing distribution (as items are available) on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings when the pantry is open.
- A food pantry, open the first Thursday each month from 9:00 am – 11:00 am, for distribution among those homeless and hungry in our local community.
- Hygiene and first aid products distributed as supplies are collected.
- Infant Supplies, such as diapers and baby food (when they are available) to families with young children.
- Miscellaneous items.

Project: NEEDS

Project: NEEDS offers two main services to those in need in our community. Every Tuesday evening a hot meal is available to anyone who is hungry. We also have a food pantry twice a month (on the first and third Thursday) that distributes groceries to those in need. Currently we serve an average of 75 meals every Tuesday and approximately 350 grocery units are distributed each month from the pantry.

In our approach, special attention is placed on making the homeless and hungry feel comfortable coming to us and promoting one-on-one relationships. Every person who comes for a meal or groceries is served with dignity and respect. We strive to show all persons that they are valued.

Project: NEEDS provides the foundation for change in our local community. We are a grassroots project that is community supported. We have local churches and interfaith groups that volunteer and provide resources. We are proud to have established an ongoing relationship with philanthropic and civic organizations throughout the South Bay. Although Project: NEEDS is a church ministry, faith is not the primary issue concerning this project. We serve those in need without concern for religion, race, sexuality, or health. We hope to show our faith by turning our words into actions. Pastoral support and counseling is available to anyone expressing interest.

On Going Needs...

- Canned Fruit
 - Canned Stew or Thick Soups
 - Peanut Butter
 - Chili
 - Refried Beans
 - SpaghettiO's/Raviolis
 - Canned Meat
 - Cup Noodles
 - Macaroni & Cheese
 - Cereal
 - Pasta
 - Pasta Sauce
 - Rice
 - New or Used Warm Clothes
 - Blankets
 - Toiletries
 - Disposable Razors
 - Paper Towels
 - Paper Napkins
 - Bottled Water
 - Your time and support! Please contact Donna at the church office for volunteering opportunities.
 - Financial contributions
- All appropriate items should be purchased with concern for the environment.

Funding

Project: NEEDS is a church and community project that relies solely on the donations of volunteers and local community members who share a commitment to those in need in the South Bay.

Project: NEEDS welcomes the support of local churches, interfaith communities, individuals, businesses and philanthropic groups. Sponsorship/Adoption of Project: NEEDS can be accomplished in a variety of ways:

- MONEY DONATION
- MEAL SPONSORSHIP - A prepared meal to serve about 100 people costs about \$200
- PARTIAL MEAL SPONSORSHIP - Responsible for a portion of a Tuesday evening meal
- CANNED FOOD COLLECTION - We especially need cans of tuna, soups, and pop-top cans for those who are without a stove
- CEREAL DRIVE
- HYGIENE ITEMS AND INFANT PRODUCTS
- All food or monetary donations are welcomed. Together we are making a difference in the lives of those in our community!! Thank you.

Volunteers are always needed; please contact Donna at the church office if you would like to donate your time.

For more information about Project: NEEDS, contact:
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Pastor John Stephenson
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