

## Overview

West Valley Community Services (WVCS) is a nonprofit organization fighting poverty by providing critical food, housing, and support services to the low income and homeless individuals and families in the West Valley communities of Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and West San Jose. In just the past year, 3,168 individuals received critical help from the organization, with 1,207 of those individuals receiving assistance from the agency for the first time. WVCS distributed \$1,265,686 in emergency assistance to help 573 individuals avoid homelessness or move into permanent housing. Cupertino is the home community of 22% of the agency's clients, with 29% of last year's new clients residing in Cupertino. WVCS is physically based in Cupertino, and is the primary direct service provider in the community.

Because of West Valley's close interaction with the low-income, unhoused, racially diverse, and non-English-speaking members of our community, the agency is well-positioned to engage these individuals, who are most in need of housing and support, in the Housing Element process. These are also the populations whose involvement is necessary to meet Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) requirements. WVCS has the experience and capacity to support our clients emotionally and logistically as they navigate sharing their lived experience, such as experiencing homelessness, navigating affordable housing, and living as low-income individuals. With more than 48 years of operating experience, WVCS has unique expertise that can be leveraged to help clients engage in the Housing Element process.

Kylie Clark, the Public Policy Coordinator at WVCS, would be the point-person and leader of the tasks and responsibilities outlined in this document. WVCS recently created the Public Policy Coordinator position to bring the agency into conversations, focusing on uplifting our clients to participate in areas that they don't traditionally have access to. The coordinator spends time in the community and with clients to bring people together and provide education. Kylie would use her expertise and connections with clients, community members, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and nonprofits to engage the community at-large and help Cupertino meet AFFH requirements.