



May 6, 2025

McKenzie Fields
Legislative Director at Office of Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi
OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY PELOSI
1236 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

RE: Letter of Support for Self-Help for the Elderly's Funding Request for Safe Passage Vehicle Acquisition in San Francisco County

Dear Director Fields:

The San Francisco Human Services Agency: Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) is writing to show our support for Self-Help for the Elderly (Self-Help) and their funding request to the Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi for the acquisition of vehicles to support Safe Passage and essential senior transportation programs. These vehicles will ensure that older adults and persons with disabilities in San Francisco can travel safely to and from medical appointments and senior centers and receive nutritious meals and other critical services that enable them to age in place with dignity and independence.

DAS also agrees to serve as fiduciary. Our EIN is 94-6000417 and UEI is K2Z4R5AKMT95.

Since its establishment in 1966, Self-Help has provided a comprehensive range of healthcare, employment, and social services to over 50,000 seniors annually across five Bay Area counties: San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa. Their integrated, client-oriented approach to engaging the community and working directly with seniors based on their needs makes them a premier provider of senior services in the Bay Area. This agency has been our partner for many years and continues to serve as a trusted and respected resource in the community. The clients of the San Francisco Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) have always felt safe and comfortable accessing and utilizing their programs and services. Self-Help incorporates continuous improvements in its operations to ensure programs consistently meet and exceed client's needs and provide relevant and effective services. We also appreciate the dedicated staff and quality services offered by Self-Help. We will continue to work with them to support seniors and persons with disabilities in retaining their independence and avoiding more costly institutional placement options.

Through funding from DAS, Self-Help has successfully served more than 10,000 older adults annually through a continuum of health, wellness, and social



Daniel Lurie
Mayor

Kelly Dearman
Executive Director, DAS



services programs. Since 1984, DAS has funded Self-Help to provide home-delivered meal services. DAS funding has ensured essential services to seniors and adults with disabilities, and Self-Help continues to address the changing needs of the senior community as they age. Because of growing food insecurity and functional limitations in the older adult population, DAS worked closely with Self-Help before the pandemic to expand its home-delivered meal services citywide, which has the most extensive reach to the minority and marginalized residents of San Francisco.

When the COVID-19 pandemic stay-at-home order was enacted on March 17, 2020, Self-Help quickly pivoted its agency operations to emergency meal delivery with 300+ volunteer packers and drivers, serving 300,000 meals in three months from March to June 2020. Because many service providers were closed or only providing virtual services, many residents were stranded without devices or access. Hence, the agency reopened to provide hybrid in-person and virtual services to meet and serve clients. Unfortunately, the additional funding available during the pandemic has ceased. At the same time, the agency enrolled more frail (age 75-85), food-insecure clients due to growing unmet needs. They cannot disenroll clients who qualify despite insufficient funds reimbursement for the total cost of home-delivered meal services, so larger nonprofit providers such as Self-Help are incurring substantial losses that we are aware of.

Self-Help's record of success and experience working with a diverse clientele is a great asset, and we don't want to lose their home-delivered meal and transportation services to the most-in-need and wellness checks during these challenging times. Given the growing aging population, selecting Self-Help for this funding will firmly support their work in maintaining home and community-based services to help older adults retain independence and prevent premature and costly institutional placement. We anticipate working closely with Self-Help as a key partner to continue addressing the needs of older adults in the community as they age in place.

Sincerely,

Kelly Dearman
Executive Director
San Francisco Human Services Agency | Department of Disability and Aging
Services

