



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: June 18, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Jesús Armas, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director:
Contact Info: Joseph Dzvoniak, Deputy Director (805) 568-3523
SUBJECT: Subrecipient Agreements to extend the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program in Santa Barbara County.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the following subrecipient agreements for the distribution of California Health and Human Services Agency Department of Social Services (CA-DSS) funds to the following subrecipients (Subrecipients) in the specified amounts:
 - i. Good Samaritan Shelter (GSS), allocating \$130,000 in (CA-DSS) funds for ongoing Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) outreach, case management, housing assistance and disability benefits advocacy (not including legal services) to be fully expended by June 30, 2025;
 - ii. Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County (Legal Aid), allocating \$90,000 in CA-DSS funds for ongoing HDAP disability benefits advocacy and legal services to be fully expended by June 30, 2025; and
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute subrecipient agreements for the distribution of HOME-ARP funds to the following subrecipients in the specified amounts:
 - i. GSS, allocating \$530,000 in HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) funds for ongoing outreach, case management, and housing assistance and disability benefits advocacy (not including legal services) as part of the local HDAP program to be fully expended by June 30, 2025;
 - ii. Legal Aid, for \$150,000 in HOME-ARP funds for ongoing disability benefits advocacy and legal support services as part of local HDAP program

- c) Determine that the above recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4) as the actions involve the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve a commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

Staff is recommending approval of the following subrecipient agreements (Subrecipient Agreements):

1. CA-DSS Subrecipient Agreement with GSS for up to \$130,000 for HDAP Outreach, Case Management and Housing Assistance (Attachment A)
2. CA-DSS Subrecipient Agreement with GSS for up to \$90,000 for HDAP Disability Benefits Advocacy (Attachment B)
3. HOME-ARP Subrecipient Agreement with GSS for up to \$530,000 for HDAP Outreach, Case Management and Housing Assistance (Attachment C)
4. HOME-ARP Subrecipient Agreement with Legal Aid for up to \$150,000 for HDAP Disability Benefits Advocacy (Attachment D)

Following allocations of \$1.5 million in both FY 2021-22 and FY2022-23, the allocation of HDAP for Santa Barbara County has been reduced to \$243,546 for FY 2023-24. The combined CA-DSS and HOME-ARP funds considered here will help to extend, while gradually stepping down, the HDAP supportive services through GSS and Legal Aid through June 30, 2025.

Background:

In 2016, the State established the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) to assist people experiencing homelessness who are likely eligible for disability benefits by providing advocacy for disability benefits as well as housing support. HDAP has four core requirements: outreach, case management, disability advocacy, and housing assistance. The State appropriated \$175 million for the HDAP in FY 2021-22 to be administered to counties through CA-DSS. In 2022, CA-DSS allocated an initial award to Santa Barbara County in the amount of \$1,526,720 for FY 2021-22.

HDAP was established by Assembly Bill 1603 and updated by Senate Bill 80 to assist people experiencing homelessness who are likely eligible for disability benefits by providing advocacy for disability benefits as well as housing support. HDAP has four core requirements: outreach, case management, disability advocacy, and housing assistance. The State of California Budget Act of 2021 appropriated a total of \$175 million for HDAP in FY 2021-22 to be administered to counties through CA-DSS. In 2022, CA-DSS allocated an initial award to Santa Barbara County in the amount of \$1,526,720 for FY 2021-22.

HDAP offers outreach, case management, housing assistance, and disability benefits advocacy including legal services. HDAP participants receive program services until a final disability benefits determination is made and the participant is stabilized in permanent housing. HDAP is intended to support participants in meeting two important program goals: Securing disability benefits and stabilization in permanent housing. Priority is given to people experiencing chronic homelessness and those relying heavily on government services.

Santa Barbara County Community Services Department (CSD) awarded funds to GSS and Legal Aid through a NOFA released on April 19, 2022. Subrecipient agreements reflecting these awards were approved by the Board on August 16, 2022. Subsequently, CA-DSS allocated an additional \$1,526,720 in FY 2022-23 for an HDAP support services extension, and both subrecipients are currently providing these

critically needed services as approved by the First Amendment to each agreement as authorized by the Board on January 10, 2023. To date, 79 homeless and at-risk individuals have been housed and 46 disability benefits initial applications were submitted.

HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP)

Additionally, HOME-ARP carries out four activities that must primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations: (1) development and support of affordable housing, (2) tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), (3) provision of supportive services, and (4) acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units. On January 11, 2022, the County approved the FY 2021-22 Allocation Plan which included use of HOME-ARP funds for support services to provide homelessness assistance and supportive services.

In a NOFA released on March 20, 2024, CSD described HOME-ARP program objectives and prioritized eligible uses, and requested applications and qualifications documentation for evaluation by a Review and Rank Panel comprised of individuals from units of local government within the HOME Consortium Participating Jurisdictions. Their finalized recommendations provide for HOME-ARP funding to the HDAP provider agencies through new subrecipient agreements with aligned scopes of work and performance measures through at least June 30, 2025.

Performance Measures:

Each of the two subrecipients will provide quarterly reports to the County regarding services provided and the outcomes, or performance measures as summarized in Table 1.

HDAP offers disability benefits legal advocacy including developing and filing completely prepared documents and coordinating with HDAP Outreach, Care Coordination, and Housing Assistance Staff and federal and state offices relevant to the disability income benefit.

Table 1: Subrecipient Goals and Performance Measures

a. Goals

Subrecipients shall provide the following levels of services during the term of the Agreement:

Goals	GSS	Legal Aid
Number of participants enrolled	191	167
Number of disability applications submitted	175	155
Number of unsheltered homeless persons entering shelter	112	N/A
Number of homeless persons entering permanent housing (placed into units)	145	145
Number of individuals housed at program exit	140	142
Number of individuals housed one year after program exit	110	130

b. Performance Measures

Subrecipients shall meet the following performance measure goals during the term of the Agreement:

Measures	GSS	Legal Aid
Percentage of HDAP participants with a final disability benefit determination that receive an approval	75%	75%
Percentage of individuals successfully placed in permanent housing	78%	78%
Percentage of adult participants will obtain earned income at project exit	10%	10%

Percentage of adult participants will obtain cash/non-cash benefits at project exit	90%	90%
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Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

CSD will receive an allocation of \$23,546 in CA-DSS funds for administration services, including implementation, oversight of the review process to select providers, contracting, project development, invoicing, monitoring, and ensuring fulfillment of all HDAP requirements. Table 2 reflects the allocations (including previous CA-DSS HDAP allocations) to each recipient of HDAP funds for eligible activities.

Table 2: Housing Disability and Advocacy Program Funding Allocation Breakdown

Recipient	Eligible Activity	Source	Amounts	Period
Good Samaritan Shelter*	Disability Outreach, Case Management, Housing Assistance	CA-DSS	\$2,349,700	FY 2021-23
		CA-DSS	\$130,000*	FY 2023-2025
		HOME-ARP	\$530,000*	
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County*	Disability Benefits Advocacy and Legal Services	CA-DSS	\$490,000	FY 2021-23
		CA-DSS	\$90,000*	FY 2023-2025
		HOME-ARP	\$150,000*	
Community Services Community Services	Administration	CA-DSS	\$213,740	FY 2021-23
	Administration	CA-DSS	\$23,546*	FY 2024-25
Total HDAP			\$3,976,986	FY 2021 – 2025

* Subrecipients and Allocations that are recommended by this Board Action

All FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 costs for work conducted by the subrecipients are budgeted within the CSD-HCD budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State: CA-DSS			\$ 243,546.00
Federal: HOME-ARP			\$ 680,000.00
Fees			
Other:			
Total		\$ -	\$ 923,546.00

CSD will track all expenditures and monitor subrecipient performance and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, program guidance, and evidence-based practices. CSD will determine the eligibility of expenditures and report them to the CA-DSS for reimbursement. CSD will also submit project budget spreadsheets showing itemized costs to CA-DSS on a quarterly basis, and provide supporting documentation for any costs upon request by CA-DSS staff.

Key Contract Risks:

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of CA-DSS funds in accordance with all federal and State requirements governing the use of such funds. In addition, the County would be held liable if it or any provider to which it grants funds is found to be non-compliant with respect to applicable requirements. The Subrecipients have successfully operated State and/or federally-funded projects in the past which have had similar regulatory and administrative requirements.

Payments to Subrecipients under the HOME-ARP Subrecipient Agreements are to be made on a cost-reimbursement basis. This allows CSD to disburse funds for eligible incurred costs to the extent permitted by the HOME-ARP Subrecipient Agreements. The County will only reimburse Subrecipients for costs that are actually incurred, eligible for reimbursement under the appropriate HOME-ARP Subrecipient Agreement. CSD staff will assess the performance of the Subrecipients under each HOME-ARP Subrecipient Agreement to determine if the services provided are adequate and as outlined in the HOME-ARP Subrecipient Agreements.

Staffing Impacts:

CSD has a Memorandum of Understanding with CA-DSS to meet the funding requirements; administration of HOME-ARP and CA-DSS funding sources is within currently budgeted staff positions.

Special Instructions:

- 1) Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Kimberlee Albers at kalbers@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Attachments:

Attachment A: Subrecipient Agreement with GSS for CA-DSS funding of HDAP Outreach, Case Management and Housing Assistance

Attachment B: Subrecipient Agreement with Legal Aid for CA-DSS funding of HDAP Disability Benefits Advocacy

Attachment C: Subrecipient Agreement with GSS for HOME-ARP funding of HDAP Outreach, Case Management and Housing Assistance

Attachment D: Subrecipient Agreement with Legal Aid for HOME-ARP funding of HDAP Disability Benefits Advocacy

Authored by: Matthew Rector, Housing Program Specialist II

cc: N/A