



**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:** CEO  
**Department No.:** 012  
**For Agenda Of:** October 6, 2020  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** No

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department        Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
   Director  
   Contact Info:        Bernard Melekian, Assistant County Executive Officer  
   Kelly Hubbard, Director Office of Emergency Management  
**SUBJECT:**    **First Amendment to the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County COVID-19  
   Funding Agreement**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify and authorize the Chair of the County Board of Supervisors to execute an Amendment of the funding agreement with the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County for emergency feeding services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This First Amendment extends the term through March 31, 2021; and
  
- b) Determine that the proposed action is related to the creation of a government funding mechanism and other fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and is therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378 (b)(4).

**Summary Text:**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County implemented emergency feeding programs to assist vulnerable communities facing food insecurity. The current funding agreement allows the Foodbank to pursue COVID-19 related emergency feeding reimbursement from the County for

services provided beginning March 16 through September 30, 2020. Residents throughout the county continue to experience challenges with food insecurity as evidenced by ongoing demand at food distribution sites and grocery home delivery to home-bound seniors. This item is on the agenda for your Board to approve and ratify a First Amendment with the Foodbank to extend the funding agreement term through March 31, 2021, an additional 6 months.

**Background:**

To help support the nutritional needs of vulnerable residents impacted by COVID-19, including home-bound seniors, the County entered into a funding agreement for emergency food distribution services with the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County for the term of March 16, 2020 through September 30, 2020. Local residents continue to experience food insecurity as the pandemic endures. The Foodbank is a critical lifeline for those who are unable to access sufficient food due to COVID-19 and allows at-risk seniors to continue to stay safe at home with grocery home delivery services. Home delivery services includes grocery delivery, and for a short period of time included prepared meals.

Based on recent FEMA policy addressing emergency feeding during COVID-19, the purchase and distribution of food constitutes emergency protective measures necessary to save lives and protect public health and safety. The policy also provides that local governments may enter into formal agreements with private organizations, including private nonprofit (PNP) organizations such as food banks, to purchase and distribute food when necessary as an emergency protective measure in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. In these cases, federal public assistance funding is provided to the County which is the legally responsible government entity, which then reimburses the private organization for the cost of providing those services under the agreement.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Although part of the agreement, Foodbank does not plan to pursue reimbursement for food distribution centers due to complexities in FEMA required documentation, and the generosity of donors who have helped to supplement these efforts. However, Foodbank does intend to pursue reimbursement from the County per this agreement specifically for home delivery services only. Approximately 3,325 individuals are currently receiving home delivery services. Foodbank estimates that 64% of these individuals are eligible per FEMA eligibility requirements. The estimated costs for FEMA-eligible home delivery recipients from March 16, 2020 through March 31, 2021 is \$538,530. The original estimated costs, which included food distribution centers, was approximately \$420,000 for 6 months.

The Foodbank will submit eligible costs to the County with the appropriate documentation required for FEMA reimbursement processes. The County would be required to pay Foodbank for all eligible costs for which they submit appropriate documentation per this funding agreement, regardless of FEMA reimbursement.

The County plans to pursue FEMA reimbursement for these incurred costs. Assuming the County can recover all emergency feeding costs from FEMA (75% cost share) and California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) is not approved, the County would be responsible for \$134,632 (25% cost share). If CDAA funds are approved, the County's cost-share is reduced to 6.25%. If unable to recover any costs, the County is responsible for the full amount.

Governor Newsom's Stay-at-Home Order is still in place and County residents continue to experience nutritional challenges related to COVID-19. This amendment to the funding agreement provides for reimbursement for emergency feeding services through March 31, 2020 (an additional 6-month period in alignment with FEMA guidelines). In order to meet the ongoing needs of impacted populations, the County may want to consider an extension of this funding agreement at a future date.

**Budgeted:** This item is not budgeted for. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding is available to cover any costs not reimbursed by FEMA and CDAA.

**Attachment**

Attachment 1 – First Amendment to the Funding Agreement between the County of Santa Barbara and Foodbank of Santa Barbara County

**Authored by:**

Yaneri Muñoz, Emergency Manager, Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management