



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 Nos.: 057
For Agenda Of: May 14, 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
Director: Jesús Armas, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Contact Info: Joe Dzvonik, Deputy Director (805) 568-3523

SUBJECT: **Second Amendment to Subrecipient Agreement with Good Samaritan Shelter for Prevention, Shelter Diversion and Re-Housing programs**

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 a Second Amendment (Second Amendment) to the Subrecipient Agreement between the County and Good Samaritan Shelter, to revise Exhibit A (Scope of Services) and Exhibit B (Budget) under the existing Subrecipient Agreement for Prevention, Shelter Diversion and Re-Housing programs funded by American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA) for persons who are at risk of losing housing or have recently lost housing.
- b) 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:

The Community Services Department (CSD) is recommending approval of a Second Amendment (Attachment A) to the Subrecipient Agreement between the County and Good Samaritan Shelter for Prevention, Shelter Diversion and Re-Housing services (Attachment B), revising Exhibits A and B to the Agreement. These funds continue to support the Health and Human Services COVID-19 Recovery and

Resilience Plan Housing and Homelessness strategy. The Second Amendment to the Subrecipient Agreement broadens its Scope of Services for the remaining \$500,000 available thereunder from being dedicated only to relocation assistance in unincorporated areas, and aligns with other funds under the Agreement to support such needs in all areas of the County, to include cities. Despite significant efforts to find eligible clients in unincorporated areas who received notices to vacate without cause, the \$500,000 allocated for these clients remains unspent.

Background:

Housing supports are a critical part of helping families and individuals recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing households from falling into homelessness. The original Subrecipient Agreement, approved and authorized by Board on September 20, 2022, provided \$900,000 in funding for staff, housing navigation services, and rental assistance to prevent housing loss and re-house persons newly homeless as quickly as possible.

The housing crisis accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic led to soaring rents and very low vacancy rates. Recognizing this crisis, the Board of Supervisors called a special hearing on April 6, 2023, and adopted Ordinance No. 5175, which amended County Code Chapter 44 to add Article IV, Just Cause for Residential Evictions.

On August 22, 2023, the Board approved a First Amendment to the Subrecipient Agreement authorizing an additional \$500,000 in ARPA funds for relocation assistance to displaced residents in unincorporated areas who received notices to vacate without cause. Despite significant efforts to find eligible clients for this more limited scope of serving only persons in the unincorporated areas who received notices to vacate without cause, this \$500,000 allocation remains unspent. GSS contacted residents in housing units where relocation assistance could be needed and worked with the Santa Barbara Tenants Union to find eligible clients, while CSD promoted the available relocation assistance to service providers over several months. Nonetheless, no eligible clients in unincorporated areas have been identified for this program. While the additional \$500,000 in unincorporated-focused funding remains unspent, the \$900,000 made available under the original Scope of Services was exhausted last month. Yet, the need for the services provided as part of the original Subrecipient Agreement remains. To address this need, staff recommends reallocation of the unspent funds.

To date, 290 households have benefitted from the prevention, diversion and rehousing assistance under the Subrecipient Agreement's original Scope of Services. In order to effectively and efficiently administer all ARPA funds under the Subrecipient Agreement, CSD recommends this Second Amendment be used to prevent homelessness and quickly intervene for persons who have lost housing by removing from the Scope of Services the stricter language about only serving tenants in unincorporated areas who receive certain notices to vacate. The Second Amendment includes an updated project budget to ensure adequate staffing to meet current client needs to include case management, housing navigation and appropriate financial assistance. Case management and other support staff shall identify the barriers to housing and shall work with participants to prevent loss of housing and address barriers to re-housing with urgency. Also, a housing access line is staffed with these funds that quickly engages with clients to prevent loss of housing. The total amended Subrecipient Agreement and associated budgeted amount remain unchanged at \$1,400,000.

Performance Measures:

The Second Amendment (Attachment A) includes updates to the Subrecipient Agreement's Scope of Work, and Payment and Budget provisions. CSD meets with Good Samaritan Shelter staff every two

weeks to review project progress. The number served is currently 290 households who are at risk of homelessness or have recently lost their housing, 76% of which have remained housed or re-entered housing after assistance from the program.

Fiscal and Facilities Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: There are no new costs associated with this recommended action to approve and authorize the Second Amendment. All project costs were previously allocated, approved, and authorized and included in the CSD budget approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 16, 2023.

Key Contract Risks:

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of ARPA funds in accordance with all federal requirements governing the use of these 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 applicable requirements. GSS has successfully operated federally-funded projects in the past which have had similar regulatory and administrative requirements.

The Subrecipient Agreement is on a cost-reimbursement basis. This allows CSD to disburse funds only for incurred costs that are eligible for reimbursement under the Subrecipient Agreement and adequately documented. CSD staff will assess performance to determine if the services provided are adequate and as outlined in the Subrecipient Agreement.

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please distribute as follows to Kimberlee Albers, Homelessness Assistance Programs Manager, Community Services Department, at kalbers@countyofsb.org:

1. Minute Order
2. A copy of the executed Second Amendment to Subrecipient Agreement with Good Samaritan Shelter for Prevention, Shelter Diversion and Re-Housing programs

Attachments:

Attachment A: Second Amendment to Subrecipient Agreement for Prevention, Shelter Diversion and Re-Housing programs

Attachment B: Subrecipient Agreement (as amended by the First Amendment) between the County and Good Samaritan Shelter for Prevention, Shelter Diversion and Re-Housing programs

Authored by: Matthew Rector, Housing Assistance Program Specialist II, Community Services Department, Housing and Community Development Division