



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: August 17, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805)568-2467
Director(s)
Contact Info: Dinah Lockhart, Deputy Director (805)568-3523
SUBJECT: Approval of Sub-Recipient Agreement and Amendments for Emergency Solutions Grant, Coronavirus Round 2 (ESG-CV2) funding for COVID-19 Homelessness Response

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: YES

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: YES

Risk Concurrence:

As to form: YES

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute an agreement with Good Samaritan Shelter using \$200,000 in Emergency Solutions Grant, Coronavirus Round 2 (ESG-CV2) funds allocated through the State of California, which will fund navigation services at Father Virgil Cordano Center and the operation of Freedom Warming Centers throughout the county;
- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not the acceptance and approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the project is a creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

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Summary Text:

Of the \$5,862,848 in ESG-CV funding received by the County, \$200,000 was originally awarded to the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara (USSB) for the operation of a county wide warming center program. Freedom Warming Centers recognized the need for an organization with greater fiscal and administrative capacity to support the growth of this vital service. Good Samaritan Shelter, which has been expanding their programs countywide, has offered to take over leadership and act as the new fiscal agent for the Freedom Warming Centers. By letter of intent to terminate dated June 24, 2021, the Unitarian Society informed the County that it would be stepping back and having Good Samaritan Shelter take over the warming centers. (Attachment B). Staff followed up with a letter, dated July 21, 2021, memorializing the Unitarian Society’s exercise of its option to terminate under the terms of the Agreement. (Attachment C.) To date, the Unitarian Society has not incurred any costs under this grant agreement and has not begun performing under the terms of the contract.

Staff recommends the reallocation of ESG-CV2 funds to Good Samaritan for the operation of county wide warming shelters. Due to short expenditure deadlines and a dry season in 2020-21, ESG-CV2 funding for the Freedom Warming Centers are anticipated to not be fully spent. Good Samaritan will use the unspent funds to provide housing navigation services and lease additional space for the Father Virgil Cordero Center (navigation/day center).

Under Good Samaritan management, the Freedom Warming Centers will continue to provide county-wide emergency shelter beds for unsheltered homeless individuals when the weather forecast hits a temperature of 35 degrees or below and/ or 50% or more chance of rain. Good Samaritan Shelter will be operating Freedom Warming Centers on a countywide basis, and will work in partnership with existing FWC staff, partner agencies and sponsoring churches to create temporary shelter spaces during inclement weather.

CSD seeks approval from the Board of Supervisors to approve, ratify and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute a subrecipient agreement using Emergency Solutions Grant, Coronavirus Round 2 (ESG-CV2) to Good Samaritan Shelter in the amount outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: ESG-CV2 Proposed Funding Reallocation

Provider	Activity	Detail (lists are not exhaustive)	Total ESG-CV2 Contract Amount
Good Samaritan Shelter	Navigation and Day Center	Provide mail, laundry services, nutritious warm meals, /housing navigation, assistance with resumes & job search, access to mainstream benefits, and respite from extreme heat	\$104,424
Good Samaritan Shelter	Warming Centers	Provide emergency shelter beds, countywide, for unsheltered homeless individuals when the weather forecast hits a temperature of 35 degrees or below and/ or 50% or more chance of rain.	\$95,576
Total			\$200,000

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Background:

Based on the State allocation of \$6,119,469 in ESG-CV2, approximately 3.2%, or \$197,400 was retained by the County for grant administration, \$59,221 was retained by the county for HMIS administration, and the balance of \$5,862,848 was made available to qualified service providers. These allocations and subrecipients agreement were approved and ratified by the Board of Supervisors on February 9, 2021.

The County of Santa Barbara serves as the Administrative Entity (AE) for the Continuum of Care (CoC) service area. As AE, the County is responsible for the administration of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds on behalf of the CoC. Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Act enacted by Congress on March 27, 2020, the State of California was awarded approximately \$253 million in federal funds for the ESG-CV2 Program. The goal of the program is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or receiving homeless assistance; and, to support additional homeless assistance and homeless prevention activities to mitigate the impacts created by coronavirus.

On October 20, 2020 the County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution authorizing the Community Services Director or designee to submit a funding application for ESG-CV2 and the acceptance and administration of funds under the State ESG-CV2 program to address urgent needs in support of the County of Santa Barbara's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Fr. Virgil Cordano Center provides mail service, laundry services, nutritious warm meals, a safe place to be during the day for participants operated by St. Vincents. Good Samaritan will add housing navigation service to the day center. In addition, participants will become "document ready" and have access to the Coordinated Entry System for long-term solutions which will assist in providing housing to those in need. In addition, other agencies, such as Doctors without Walls, will be on-site to provide vaccination clinics and other basic health needs. The navigation/ day Center will also offer respite from excessive heat, which has become a necessity given the rise in repeated heat waves in our area. Having a cooling center is a life-saving safety net for those living on the streets and/or areas unfit for human habitation consistent with the Freedom Warming Center mission. The navigation /day Center will also provide essential COVID response services for our guests, including: additional sanitation and safety measures to ensure the health of guests, education and information about COVID 19 for guests, PPE distribution, etc.

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara has terminated the agreement previously approved by the Board of Supervisors earlier this year allowing for the new agreement. USSB, St. Vincents, and Good Samaritan are all working collaboratively for a successful project providing life saving shelter and access to long term housing solutions together.

Performance Measure:

The subrecipient will provide quarterly reports to the County on services provided and the outcomes, or performance measures, which have been outlined in their respective scopes of work.

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Emergency Shelter – Navigation and Day Center

	Goal
Number of unduplicated clients to be served at the day center during contract period	100
Day center daily capacity	60

Emergency Shelter – Warming Centers

	Goal
Number of Beds	90
Number of Overflow Beds	20

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

General Fund		
State	\$	200,000.00
Federal		
Fees		
Other:		
Total	\$	200,000.00

Narrative: These ESG-CV2 Act funds will be used connect people experiencing homelessness to housing opportunities through the operation of day/warming/navigation centers. They will be fully expended on or before January 31, 2022. The state does allow for the expenditure of funds prior to the execution of agreements.

Key Contract Risks:

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of ESG-CV2 funds in accordance with all state and federal requirements governing their use. In addition, it would be held liable if it or any provider to which it sub-grants funds is found to be non-compliant with applicable requirements. Good Samaritan Shelter has successfully operated State and/or federally-funded homeless assistance projects in the past which have had similar regulatory and administrative requirements.

The ESG-CV2 Sub-recipient Agreements are cost-reimbursement contracts. This allows CSD/HCD to disburse funds to the aforementioned Sub-recipients for eligible incurred costs to the extent prescribed by the Agreement. The County will only reimburse Sub-recipients for costs that are eligible under the Agreements and documented in a manner that is acceptable to the CSD/HCD. CSD/HCD staff will assess the performance of the sub-recipients to determine if the services provided are adequate and as outline in the Agreement.

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Special Instructions:

- 1) Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Dinah Lockhart at dlockhart@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.
- 2) Please execute three (3) originals of the Sub-recipient Agreement and return two (2) originals to Dinah Lockhart (x3523).

Attachments:

- A) Emergency Solutions Grant, Coronavirus Round 2 Sub-recipient Agreement for Good Samaritan Shelter;
- B) Executed notice of intent to terminate from the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
- C) Executed letter of contract termination from Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara for their existing ESG-CV2 subrecipient agreement.

Authored by: Jett Black-Maertz, Housing Program Specialist Sr., CSD

CC: