



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:** Social Services  
**Department No.:** 044  
**For Agenda Of:** January 24, 2023  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Time:** 45 Minutes  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** N/A

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director  
Director(s) (805) 346-7101  
Contact Info: Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director  
(805) 346-7101

**SUBJECT:** Home Delivery of Meals to Seniors/Disabled in Santa Barbara County

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form:

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a presentation from the Department of Social Services regarding updates on the home delivery of meals to seniors/disabled in Santa Barbara County; and,
- b) Consider allocating \$600,000 in one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding previously designated by Board for senior nutrition assessment and gaps funding as follows:
  1. Creation of a fund in the amount of \$75,000 available through March 2024 to provide local match to providers to potentially enhance their ability to draw down state, federal, or other funds.
  2. Creation of a flexible fund in the amount of \$525,000 for providers to apply for assistance with increased costs they are experiencing associated with the pandemic over the next two years (FY 2023/2024 through FY 2024/2025). Criteria and process to be developed for distribution; or,
- c) Provide other direction for allocating ARPA funding as appropriate to staff.
- d) Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(4), the 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; and per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda in order for the Board to receive and file an update to the Department of Social Services presentation on home delivery of meals to seniors/disabled in Santa Barbara County as directed by the Board on August 23, 2022 and to decide the use of the \$600,000 in ARPA money previously set aside by the Board for senior nutrition assessment and gaps funding.

**Background:**

On August 23, 2022, the Department provided a report to the Board of Supervisors regarding the large array of meal services provided to seniors and the disabled in the County. Following the presentation the Board directed the Department to follow up with providers to ask additional qualitative questions regarding their projected short and long term needs, primarily, what assistance providers might be seeking from community partners as well as from the County.

After a second survey, as well as multiple interviews, providers did not identify the need for additional infrastructure or any additional collaborative efforts from other community based organizations or by the County. The need consistently expressed by providers was for stable ongoing funding for their programs in order to remain viable. A provider also voiced the need to access local funds for match when there are opportunities to pursue additional state, federal, or other funding sources. Most programs relayed that their program model relies heavily on ongoing fundraising efforts and expressed the need for greater County support to ensure greater predictability of their operations year to year.

Based on this additional information, the following options are recommended for consideration for the \$600,000 in ARPA funding the Board has set aside for senior nutrition assessment and gaps funding:

- 1) Creation of a fund in the amount of \$75,000 available through March 2024 to provide local match to providers to potentially enhance their ability to draw down state, federal, or other funds.
- 2) Creation of a flexible fund, in the amount of \$525,000 for providers to apply for assistance with increased costs they are experiencing associated with the pandemic over the next two years (FY 2023/2024 through FY 2024/2025). Criteria and process to be developed for distribution.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

N/A.

If so directed by the Board, DSS staff will return to the Board with a separate Board Letter recommending execution of subrecipient agreements conferring ARPA funds to providers. No funds are recommended for commitment at this time.

**Attachments:**

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N/A

**Authored by:**

Daniel Nielson, Director, Department of Social Services