



**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

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** Community Services  
**Department No.:** 057  
**Agenda Date:** July 14, 2026  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services Department  
Contact: Joe Dzvonic, Assistant Director of Housing and Community Development  
Jett Black-Maertz, Homelessness Programs Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Permission to Apply: Safety Through Recovery, Engagement, and Evidence-Based Treatment and Support (STREETS)

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Behavioral Wellness

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

- a) Authorize the Community Services Department Director to apply to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the FY 2026 Safety Through Recovery, Engagement, and Evidence-Based Treatment and Support (STREETS) grant program by July 26, 2026, for an amount up to \$3,000,000 annually over a four-year project period (totaling up to \$12,000,000); and
- b) Determine the above recommended action is not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), finding that the actions are organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

**Summary Text:**

Staff are recommending authorization for the Community Services Department (CSD) Director to submit a federal grant application to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Safety Through Recovery, Engagement, and Evidence-Based Treatment and Support (STREETS) initiative. Because eligible applicants are restricted to political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, or tribal organizations, the County of Santa Barbara will serve as the lead

applicant and administrative entity, partnering directly with GSS to target unsheltered individuals experiencing severe behavioral health and substance use challenges. Upon approval of the Application by the federal government, the subsequent Standard Agreement sent to the County by SAMHSA will be subject to concurrence by County Counsel, Risk Management, and Auditor-Controller. If all of the above listed concurrences are received, staff return to the Board for approval of the Standard Agreement.

**Discussion:**

On June 17, 2026, SAMHSA released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY 2026 STREETS grant program, with applications due on July 17, 2026. Nationally, SAMHSA estimates available funding of \$24,000,000 to support up to 8 competitive awards across the country. The program allows eligible local government entities to apply for up to \$3,000,000 per year for a project period of up to 4 years, totaling a potential \$12,000,000 investment into local street-based engagement and recovery infrastructure.

The intent of the STREETS initiative is to combat the effects of addiction and severe mental illness on American streets by establishing highly coordinated, community-wide interventions. The grant mandates a "whole-of-government" framework bringing together local government, housing providers, law enforcement, first responders, and the court systems.

Unlike traditional low-barrier models, the STREETS program establishes a distinct framework that requires housing assistance to be paired with, and contingent upon, active participation in substance use and mental health treatment to promote long-term sobriety and self-sufficiency.

**Background:**

The County of Santa Barbara consistently seeks to leverage federal resources to alleviate compounding pressures on local regional response networks. Local data indicates that a significant portion of the unsheltered population struggles with mental health symptoms and substance use disorders. State funding paths often present limitations in enforcing service participation.

To maximize competitiveness for this limited federal funding opportunity, the County is partnering with GSS, the region's leading provider of street outreach, interim shelter, and recovery services. GSS will co-write the proposal and serve as the lead service delivery partner, leveraging their established multi-disciplinary outreach networks and detox/sober living capacity.

**Performance Measure:**

The STREETS program measures performance through rigorous clinical and housing tracking metrics. Per federal requirements, progress will be evaluated by an assigned Program Evaluator (minimum 0.2 FTE) to monitor treatment adherence, sobriety milestones, reductions in justice system recidivism, and permanent/sober housing retention rates. Data will be coordinated through local compliance mechanisms and integrated into regional progress metrics.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts. Program funds will be administratively disbursed and tracked by CSD staff to GSS through all standard administrative processes.

**Fiscal Analysis**

Funding Source	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	Total
General Fund					
State					
Federal	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$12,000,000
Fees					
[Other Source]					
Total					\$12,000,000

**Staffing Impacts:**

Grant oversight, reporting, and administration will be handled by existing personnel within CSD’s Housing and Community Development division's homeless services team. Implementation costs and required personnel tracking components are accounted for within the grant's allowable administrative allocations and the existing Community Services budget. No additional County staff positions are requested or being considered.

**Special Instructions:**

- 1) Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Jett Black-Maertz at [jblack@countyofsb.org](mailto:jblack@countyofsb.org)

**Attachments:**

N/A

**Contact Information:**

Jett Black-Maertz  
 Homelessness Assistance Programs Manager  
[jblack@countyofsb.org](mailto:jblack@countyofsb.org)