



**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:** May 12, 2026  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services Department DS  
JA  
Contact: Joseph DzvoniK, Assistant Director, Housing and Community Development  
Jett Black-Maertz, Homelessness Assistance Programs Manager  
**SUBJECT: Authorize Submission of Encampment Resolution Funding Application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (State HCD)**

**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) Authorize the Community Services Director, or designee, acting on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara, to submit an application requesting over \$10,000,000, and all certifications, standard forms, and other related documents, to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the countywide collaborative to be selected for participation in the fifth round of the California Encampment Resolution Funding (CERF-5) program;
- b) Authorize the Community Services Director to execute all certifications, standard forms, and a grant agreement in a form substantially similar to the California Encampment Resolution Funding Round 3 (CERF-3) Standard Agreement between the County and the State dated September 19, 2024, and other related documents required for the acceptance and administration of CERF-5 State funds, subject to concurrence of County Counsel and Auditor; and
- c) Determine the above recommended actions are 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:**

In 2025, outreach workers and community members identified 270 encampments across the County that were verified and assessed by staff. To resolve these encampments, the Community Services Department (CSD) seeks to apply for California Encampment Resolution Funding Round 5 (CERF-5) to continue to address the safety and wellness of people within encampments. In alignment with both County staff and State priorities, this round will primarily support areas where the State rights-of-way occurs along transit corridors including railroads. If this application is awarded, CERF-5 funding will bolster existing successful models being implemented by the County that transition unhoused individuals living in encampments to permanent housing through supportive services and interim housing solutions.

Staff is recommending the Board authorize the Community Services Director to submit an application requesting over \$10,000,000 in CERF-5 funding to the California Department of Housing and Community Development, and execute a CERF-5 Standard Agreement with the State in a form substantially similar to the CERF-3 Standard Agreement with the State (Attachment A) and other related documents required for the acceptance and administration of CERF-5 funding.

**Discussion:**

Staff plan to employ CERF-5 funds to resolve encampments along transit corridors, including State highways 1, 101, 246, railroads and impacted underpasses that overlap with waterways. Staff estimate nearly 350 individuals residing in tent or vehicular encampments live along these zones and are high risk of fires and vehicle/train right-of-way pedestrian strikes, as well as substantial debris impacting the environment. Over the term of this grant, the CERF-5 strategy looks to leverage existing “tiny home village” interim housing operations and provide time-limited subsidies (similar to Rapid Rehousing) with the goal of permanently housing 150 individuals and resolving 108 encampments along those zones. The locations of zones and numbers of persons documented in mapping software is listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Zones by District

County	City/Area	Zones	Persons
D1	Carpinteria	3	32
D1	Unincorporated Montecito/Summerland	3	8
D1	Santa Barbara- lower	3	60
D2	Santa Barbara- upper	4	20
D2	Unincorporated between SB and Goleta	4	10
D3	Goleta	4	40
D3	Lompoc/Santa Ynez Valley	5	90
D4	Santa Maria	2	20
D5	Santa Maria	3	70
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>350</b>

Based on input and discussions with the Continuum of Care (CoC) Planning Committee, staff propose to include the following funding distribution in the application submitted to the State. Other existing, planned, and potential projects funded by County and other sources (e.g., mapping software, new housing developments, and administrative capacity) will be funded to support the plan outlined in this application while enhancing coordination among street outreach, housing and retention teams across jurisdictions to support the rapid movement of people into housing.

Funding levels subject to change pending release of notice of funding and final application submission.

Table 2: Potential Recommended Funding Levels

Eligible Use	County Recommendation	Percent of Total Allocation
Street Outreach	\$3,573,500.00	35%
Interim Housing	\$2,073,034.00	21%
Rapid Rehousing	\$3,450,000.00	34%
Service Coordination	\$500,000.00	5%
Administrative	\$479,826.70	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,076,360.70</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Background:**

Since 2021, the State Legislature has provided a total of \$900 million (General Fund) for the Encampment Resolution Funding program, with an additional \$100 million in the Governor’s budget planned for 2025-26. CERF is a grant program intended to help local communities address homeless encampments by funding housing and other services. State HCD gives priority to local jurisdictions with CERF programs addressing encampments along State rights-of-way.

Santa Barbara County has applied for and received three rounds of CERF for a total investment of \$16.5 million. (CERF 4 funding was made available to selected agencies who were unsuccessful in receiving an allocation during the CERF-3 funding cycle. As a result, the State is labeling this new cycle as CERF-5). Previous applications were dedicated to encampments along the transit corridor, waterways, and vehicular encampments throughout the County. Initial awards were intended to support 750 people living in encampments with the goal of sheltering 275 and housing 304 of those 750 individuals. To date, the CERF programs have exceeded the goals, having served a total of 895 people, sheltered 407 individuals, and placed 311 people into permanent housing.

Table 3: County of Santa Barbara Funding Awards for CERF Rounds 1-3

CERF Round	Total Award
CERF 1	\$2,520,000
CERF 2	\$6,000,000
CERF 3	\$7,975,380
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$16,495,380</b>

Table 4: Funding Levels by Eligible Use for CER Rounds 1-3

CERF Rounds 1-3 Project Types and Uses	Amounts
Street Outreach	\$ 5,321,600
Interim Housing	\$ 4,700,000
Delivery of Permanent Housing (RRH Flex funds)	\$ 4,998,500
Service Coordination	\$ 334,125
System Support	\$ 303,750
Environmental rehab	\$ 150,000
Admin	\$ 687,405
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,495,380</b>

**Performance Measure:**

The proposed goals and performance measures for the CERF-5 application are included below.

Goals	Total
Unduplicated number of homeless persons	350
Number of homeless persons entering permanent housing (placed into units)	150

Performance Measures	Total
% of adult participants gaining new or increasing cash income at project exit	15%
% of adult participants increasing non-cash benefits at project exit	50%
% of project participants who move into permanent housing remaining housed for 1 year	90%

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of funding in accordance with all State and federal requirements governing their use. As the recipient of State and federal funds, the County is responsible for ensuring that funds are used in accordance with all applicable requirements. CSD administers federal and State funding programs on behalf of the County and the CoC. CERF program guidelines indicate that failure to comply with CERF program requirements may result in the County being required to repay such funds. Subrecipients selected will have prior experience operating homeless assistance projects. No subrecipient agreements or contracts are included in this Board Letter.

**Staffing Impacts:**

Staff costs directly related to implementing or carrying out activities funded by the CERF-5 program allocation are included in the existing Community Services Department budget. No additional staff are being considered.

**Special Instructions:**

After Board action, please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Katherine Soto-Vasquez at [ksotovasquez@countyofsb.org](mailto:ksotovasquez@countyofsb.org) and Steven Fung at [sfung@countyofsb.org](mailto:sfung@countyofsb.org)

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – California Encampment Resolution Fund – 3 (CERF-3) Standard Agreement

**Attachment B** – California Encampment Resolution Fund – 3 (CERF-3) Application

**Contact Information:**

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 Encampment Response Manager  
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