



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: July 12, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
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)
Kimberlee Albers, Homeless Programs Manager (805-560-1090)
SUBJECT: Approval of Sub-Recipient Agreement with Kingdom Causes, Inc., dba CityNet, using California Encampment Resolution Funding for Street Outreach Housing Navigators

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute an agreement with Kingdom Causes, Inc., dba CityNet, (CityNet) using California Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) funds for a total contract maximum amount not to exceed \$870,000 for street outreach to persons living in encampments along transit corridors for a term beginning July 15, 2022, and ending June 30, 2024, subject to annual appropriations and budget approval;
- b) Determine that the 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)(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.

Summary Text:

In October 2021, the State Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) made \$47.5M of competitive funding available to resolve encampments. The County of Santa Barbara collaborated with local jurisdictions (Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Lompoc, and Santa Maria) and other agencies (CalTrans and Union Pacific Railroad) to develop a coordinated approach to addressing a regional need: resolving encampments along transit corridors (U.S. Hwy 101 and CA Hwy 1) where railroad tracks parallel and intersect highways. The encampment resolution project will target populations in danger of vehicle/train right-of-way strikes and fires. Following Board approval authorizing submission of an Encampment Resolution Funding Application to the State of California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council on December 14, 2021, the County was awarded \$2,520,000 to resolve encampment sites and transition persons to safer sheltered locations.

Staff is requesting that the Board of Supervisors approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) sub-recipient agreement for \$870,000 with Kingdom Causes, Inc., dba CityNet, for street outreach to encampments along the transit corridors. The term of the sub-recipient agreement begins on July 15, 2022, and all program funds must be expended by June 30, 2024. The sub-recipient agreement represents a project ready for immediate implementation.

HCD staff continues to develop other funded components (interim housing and environmental rehabilitation) and will return to the Board as they are ready to proceed.

Background:

Under the authority of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of Division 31 of the California Health and Safety Code (sections 50250 et seq.), the Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Program was established to increase collaboration between the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), local jurisdictions, and continuums of care to accomplish the following:

- Assist local jurisdictions in ensuring the wellness and safety of people experiencing homelessness in encampments, including their immediate physical and mental wellness and safety needs arising from unsheltered homelessness and their longer-term needs addressed through a path to safe and stable housing.
- Provide encampment resolution grants to local jurisdictions and continuums of care to support innovative and replicable efforts to resolve critical encampment concerns and to support individuals to access safe and stable housing, using Housing First approaches.
- Encourage a data-informed, coordinated approach to address unsheltered homelessness at encampments by establishing, through the encampment resolution grants, effective, scalable, and replicable demonstration projects.

The ERF Program will fund local demonstration projects for innovative service delivery models and cross systems collaborations that support individuals experiencing homelessness in encampments towards a meaningful path to safe and stable housing, using non-punitive, low-barrier, person-centered, Housing First approaches. HCFC will analyze awarded demonstration projects to evaluate activities and outcomes for the purpose of sharing *scalable and replicable* encampment resolution models that may be implemented across the state.

The Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) Request for Applications (RFA) was released on October 29, 2021. The County Board of Supervisors approved an Encampment Resolution Strategy and Encampment Response Protocol (August 31, 2021), which is currently being implemented. Local cities have taken action to address encampments in areas deemed at high-risk of fire, and partner agencies such as CalTrans and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) have also taken action to mitigate safety concerns along vehicle and train corridors. However, there remains a need for a countywide coordinated approach among agencies identified in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to better share limited resources to address homelessness. During the November 5, 2021 Elected Leaders Forum to Address Homelessness, jurisdictions were invited to join efforts to submit a collaborative application in response to the State’s competitive Encampment Resolution Fund Request for Applications. On November 10, cities and partners met to review the RFA and to determine the proposed project details to be implemented by a cross-jurisdictional Encampment Response Team.

The prioritized encampment site and population to be served in Santa Barbara County includes the transit corridors (along U.S. Hwy 101 and CA Hwy 1, where railroad parallels and intersects highways), targeting populations in documented danger of fires and vehicle/train right-of-way pedestrian strikes. The specific encampment site, section of an encampment, or closely linked community of encampments being resolved crosses cities in each County Supervisorial District, for a total of 53 camps and 99 persons based on current mapping software data. The locations, number of camps, and approximate number of persons per site were identified in the application based on mapping software used by street outreach providers serving persons in encampments. Table 1 shows the mapped sites for resolution using this funding.

Table 1. Mapped sites for resolution in each district and city along the transit corridors (as of December 2021).



There are several reasons these specific encampment areas are being prioritized for resolution support:

- Concerns related to public health, safety, and environmental hazards that pose a particular risk to the people living in the target area as compared to other encampments, based on the significant number of persons injured/killed in vehicle/train right-of-way strikes (the 2018-2019 Grand Jury found that “during the four-year period from 2015 to 2018, 20 railroad-related fatalities occurred along the County railroad corridor”) and medical and fire risks (in 2020, County Fire reported impacts included 401 non-fire emergency medical services calls, and 47 fire-related calls to encampments); and
- Demographic factors related to addressing racial equity or serving populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness, especially among populations with limited English-speaking and literacy skills; and
- The environmental, health, and safety impact of the encampment site to the community at large, specifically the risk of fire spreading to densely built communities along the transit corridor.

On February 24, 2022, the State of California announced the County had been awarded \$2,250,000 in Encampment Resolution Funding. Program funds will be used to conduct funded activities as described above (staffing, client services and direct assistance, interim housing, environmental rehabilitation, and transportation). On April 19, 2022, CSD/HCD released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which included funds available, application timeline, program overview, objective and eligible uses, program requirements, and application ranking criteria. The County established a review and rank panel to score applications and make funding recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors. The panel reviewed the two applications submitted online and met electronically on May 23, 2022 to make funding recommendations. The panel scored the two proposed projects based on: applicant capacity; project design and approach, including commitment and plans to address racial disparities; financial capacity, feasibility and sustainability; past performance; and coordination and collaboration. The recommended actions award \$870,000 in funding to CityNet. The review and rank panel was comprised of representatives from: County Behavioral Wellness, County Community Services, the City of Santa Barbara, and the City of Santa Maria.

The project recommended for State of California Encampment Resolution Funding will resolve high-risk encampment sites along the transit corridors (along U.S. Hwy 101 and CA Hwy 1, where railroad parallels and intersects highways), targeting populations in documented danger of fires and vehicle/train right-of-way pedestrian strikes. This recommendation for \$870,000 to CityNet , for street outreach to persons living in encampments along the transit corridors, includes funding for Street Outreach Housing Navigators to provide consistent education about fire danger and rail/road risks and engagement in case management with navigation services to interim and permanent housing; funding for Client Services and Direct Assistance (storage of personal belongings, family reunification, incentives, hygiene supplies, etc.), and funding for transportation (vehicle lease, insurance, and fuel), from July 15, 2022 – June 30, 2024.

In addition to ERF, the County is using American Rescue Plan Act funding to support two other outreach and engagement teams: the County’s Multi-Disciplinary Team, and in a separate Board Letter also before the Board of Supervisors today, Good Samaritan Shelter. Each team has a distinct population or location to be served. Coordination across outreach providers happens in weekly regional meetings and during daily efforts between team members.

Santa Barbara County’s budget for expenditure of California Encampment Resolution Funds is outlined in Table 2. Existing, planned, and potential projects (e.g., mapping software, interim housing sites, and administrative capacity) funded by County and other sources will be leveraged to support the needs outlined in County’s application for CERF funds awarded by the State.

Table 2. 2-Year Budget for Encampment Resolution along Transit Corridors.

Category	Encampment Resolution Funding	Budget Detail and Measurable Outcomes
Staffing	\$800,000*	Staffing to provide consistent education about fire danger and rail/road risks, engagement in case management with navigation services to interim and permanent housing.
Client Services and Direct Assistance	\$50,000*	Self-storage of personal belongings, family reunification, gift cards, hygiene supplies, etc.
Interim Housing	\$1,500,000	75 interim housing beds/units utilizing planned non-congregate projects as well as new scattered site projects
Environmental Rehabilitation	\$150,000	This funding will support rehabilitation efforts, such as re-planting and repair to damaged areas, including environmentally sensitive areas such as creeks and ocean outlets.
Transportation	\$20,000*	Vehicle lease, insurance, and fuel
	\$2,520,000	State Encampment Resolution Funding to support resolution of sites

*These components are part of today’s Recommended Action.
 HCD Staff continues to develop other funded components (interim housing and environmental rehabilitation) and will return to the Board as they are ready to proceed.

Performance Measure:

The services provided through the Sub-recipient Agreement before the Board today are summarized in Table 3 below. The Subrecipient will provide quarterly reports to the County regarding services provided and the outcomes, or performance measures, which have been mandated by the State. Table 3 summarizes

the number of persons/households served and instances of service, as well as the outcomes/performance measures for each project. Program design, funding allocations, and the characteristics of individuals and households served by each sub-recipient vary and impact the project outcome percentages and numbers of persons and households served.

The goals and performance measures (Table 3) are based on County’s Encampment Resolution Strategy and are intended to: 1) ensure streets and open spaces are safe and clean; 2) meet the housing, shelter, and service referral needs of individuals experiencing homelessness; 3) improve the medical and behavioral health of individuals experiencing homelessness; and, 4) deliver coordinated services to effectively address and resolve encampments by developing efficient means to manage calls for service and prioritize resources, and effectively share information and coordinate resources countywide. The Encampment Response Coordinator will work with partner jurisdictions and agencies to track demographics in camps (persons assessed, persons enrolled in services, and persons in closed/cleared sites) to ensure there are no inequities or disparities in service and outreach. The Coordinator will also convene after-action focus groups, including persons who have experienced homelessness and the cross-jurisdictional Encampment Response Team (modeled after the County’s ERT, with representatives from jurisdictions as applicable), to assess the processes in place and to improve implementation for persons in camps and experiencing homelessness.

Table 3: Goals and Performance Measures – City Net

Goals

SUBRECIPIENT will provide the following levels of services during the term of the Agreement:

	Goal
Unduplicated number of homeless persons or persons at imminent or at risk of homelessness to be served	200
Number of unsheltered homeless persons entering shelter	75
Number of homeless persons entering permanent housing (placed into units)	54

Performance Measures

SUBRECIPIENT will meet the following performance measures during the term of the Agreement:

	Goal
% of participants in resolved encampments who accept alternate shelter/housing	64%
% of individuals successfully placed in permanent housing	27%
% of adult participants will obtain earned income at project exit	10%
% of adult participants will obtain cash/non-cash benefits at project exit	10%
% of project participants entering permanent housing that will retain permanent housing at 1 year	80%

Quarterly and annual reporting to the State HCFC will be required. Staff proposes a 12-month report to the Board of Supervisors and partner jurisdictions outlining progress made, lessons learned, and recommendations for future components (e.g., interim housing and environmental rehabilitation).

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Approval of this Board action authorizes staff to execute a sub-recipient agreement for street outreach. ERF is a two-year grant of one-time funds to be 50% expended by June 30, 2023, and 100% by June 30, 2024, as required by Health and Safety Code Section 50253. Staff will return to the Board to consider recommendations on any other subrecipient awards for agencies to provide services as listed in the budget set forth in Table 2 (e.g. interim housing, environmental rehabilitation, etc.).

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			\$ 870,000.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 870,000.00

Key Contract Risks:

CSD administers federal and state funding programs on behalf of the County. As the recipient of state and federal funds, the County is responsible for ensuring that funds are used in accordance with all applicable requirements. ERF program guidelines indicate that failure to comply with program requirements may result in the County being required to repay funds. Sub-recipients selected have prior experience operating homeless assistance projects.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

On August 31, 2021, the Board approved a new position, Encampment Response Coordinator, to coordinate and implement the County’s encampment resolution strategy.

Special Instructions:

Please email a copy of Attachment A an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Kimberlee Albers at kalbers@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

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Attachments:

Attachment A: ERF Sub-recipient Agreement for \$870,000 to Kingdom Causes, Inc., dba CityNet, for Street Outreach to Encampments along the Transit Corridor

Authored by:

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