



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
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: June 27, 2023
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: Laurie Baker, Grants & Program Manager (805) 568-3521
SUBJECT: **Approve, authorize and execute an agreement with Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County for the Fair Housing Outreach, Mediation, and Education Program**

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) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute an Agreement (Attachment A) in the amount of \$25,000 between the County and the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County; and
- b) Determine that the proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the actions are 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 impact on the environment.

Summary Text: Pursuant to recommendations in the County's 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, staff requests the Board approve an agreement with Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County to continue its Fair Housing Outreach, Mediation, and Education Program during Fiscal Year 2023.

Background:

In 2020, an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) for the County of Santa Barbara was completed as part of the County’s development of its 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The AI identified “lack of fair housing knowledge and specific discrimination around source of income” as an impediment to fair housing choice in the County, and recommended that the County “continue supporting programs to improve the landlord tenant relationship and fair housing education” as a means to alleviate this impediment.

Pursuant to this recommendation, and to similar recommendations in prior AIs, the County has contracted with Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County since 2017 to provide dissemination of fair housing information through education and counselling for tenants and landlords; distribution of lists of available accessible units throughout the County; the mitigation and prevention of fair housing abuses through regular testing activities; and the resolution of residential rental housing disputes by offering consultation and information on landlord-tenant rights and responsibilities regarding security deposits, termination of tenancies, relocation benefits per County Code Chapter 44, habitability and repair, invasion of privacy, discrimination, rent increases, forcible evictions and general information.

The recommended action would extend the Fair Housing Outreach, Mediation, and Education Program through Fiscal Year 2023-24.

Performance Measure:

The agreement with Legal Aid Foundation includes a detailed Scope of Work including the projected number of persons who will benefit from the activity. Legal Aid Foundation will report to HCD quarterly on their progress to ensure they are meeting the stated goals. Funds are provided to Legal Aid Foundation on a reimbursement basis and HCD staff will ensure that expenses are allowable for the contract budget.

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

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			\$ 25,000.00
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00

Key Contract Risks:

HCD will make payments to the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County on a reimbursement basis, and to receive payment, Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County must provide documentation that supports eligible expenditures that are consistent with the contract. The County may, at County's discretion, withhold payments or cancel the agreement for non-compliance.

Staffing Impacts: HCD staff will administer the agreement.

Special Instructions:

1. Please execute two originals of the Agreement. Retain one original for COB records and return one original to Roberto Bojorquez. Call for pick up at 82469
2. Please return one copy of the Minute Order to Roberto Bojorquez at rbojorquez@countyofsb.org or hold with Agreement for pick up.

Attachments:

A: Agreement with Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County