



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: October 20, 2020
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: Dinah Lockhart, Deputy Director (805)568-3523
SUBJECT: **Approval of Targeted Outreach to Homeless Encampments in Santa Barbara County Subrecipient Agreement Using Emergency Solutions Grant CARES (ESG-CV), and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funds Act of 2020 (CARES Act) Funds to Include COVID-19 Response**

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, ratify, and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute a subrecipient agreement with Kingdom Causes Inc., dba City Net for \$443,100, using \$293,100 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) CARES (ESG-CV) funds and \$150,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act) funds to provide targeted outreach to homeless encampments in Santa Barbara County in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not the acceptance and 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:

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Act enacted by Congress on March 27, 2020, the State of California was awarded approximately \$42 million in federal funds for the ESG-CV Program. The goal of the program is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or receiving homeless assistance; and, to support additional homeless assistance and homeless prevention activities to mitigate the impacts created by coronavirus. State HCD released their State ESG-CV NOFA on June 1, 2020 with a July 20, 2020 deadline for submittal of the application to the State. The State required that a signed Board of Supervisors Resolution accompany the funding application. On July 7, 2020 the Board approved the submission of an application and accept a funding award in an amount not to exceed \$2,100,000 in State ESG-CV funds.

On July 14, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisor approved Budget Revision Request #0007096 to establish appropriations of \$46,100,000 in the County Executive Office CARES Act Fund for other financing uses funded by unanticipated revenue from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Community Services Department (CSD), operating under the authority of the Office of Emergency Services, has been coordinating the COVID-19 Homelessness Response. Of the \$46.1 million available, the Board approved an allocation of \$7.5 million for the Care of Vulnerable Populations. The State Department of Finance (DOF) directed counties to expend CARES Act funding before the end of calendar year 2020. CSD is requesting the Board authorize and approve a sub-recipient agreement for \$443,100 with City Net to provide targeted outreach and engagement to homeless encampment sites, with a focus on COVID-19 mitigation and navigation to services. In order for the contract to be funded for a full year, staff is requesting the Board approve \$293,100 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) and \$150,000 in County Executive Office Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act) to fund the agreement for the period September 15, 2020 - September 14, 2021.

Background:

ESG-CV

Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) is a federally-funded program that seeks to address the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Annually, HUD awards ESG funds on a formula basis to metropolitan cities, urban counties, states, and territories for five program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention, and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Metropolitan cities and urban counties may carry out eligible activities directly or subgrant all or part of their ESG funds to private nonprofit organizations to carry out such activities. States must subgrant all of their ESG funds, except for the amount allowed for administration, to units of general-purpose local government and/or private nonprofit organizations to carry out eligible activities. Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Act enacted by Congress on March 27, 2020, the Federal government allocated additional ESG funds with the goal of preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus among individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or receiving homeless assistance; and, supporting additional homeless assistance and homeless prevention activities to mitigate the impacts created by coronavirus.

State of California was awarded approximately \$42 million in federal funds for the ESG-CV Program. The Santa Maria/Santa Barbara Continuum of Care (CoC) Service Area, which is the geographic area located within the boundaries of Santa Barbara County, qualified for an initial allocation of \$1,031,300 in ESG-CV funding from the State, although the State directed applicants to submit resolutions for double

the initial allocation in the event of potential reallocations, which lead the County to submit a resolution to the State for an allocation of ESG-CV not to exceed \$2.1 million. Continuum of Care allocations from the State must be administered by an Administrative Entity (AE)—a unit of general-purpose local government approved by State HCD to administer State ESG funds for a period of two years. The Board of Supervisors accepted the original AE designation on May 3, 2016, which was subsequently renewed by the State in 2018 and 2020.

In an effort to establish a unified response, on March 18, the County of Santa Barbara established the COVID-19 Homelessness Task Force to include broad community input and engagement by stakeholders in response to COVID-19 to protect the health and safety of our homeless neighbors and further protect the community at large from spread of the disease. The Task Force established four key objectives:

- Prevent and mitigate COVID-19 impacts for persons who remain unsheltered through support centers and outreach re-establishing access to showers, device charging, food and hygiene supplies.
- Establish non-congregate sheltering for persons at highest risk of COVID-19 complications.
- Sustain shelter capacity for persons not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Enhance homelessness prevention and housing activities through increased funding for rental assistance and supportive services

On April 2, 2020, the CoC Board voted to empower the CoC Administrative Entity/Lead Agency (CSD) to direct the emergency funds toward activities that align with the state's suggested uses and serve the needs of the homeless population of Santa Barbara County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARES Act

The County Executive Office CARES Act Fund approved by the Board of Supervisors on July 14, 2020 allocated federal funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, to address urgent needs in support of the County of Santa Barbara's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Board included \$7.5M for vulnerable populations in the recommended uses. The funds supporting the sub-recipient agreements represents partial use of the funds allocated to vulnerable populations.

The investment in vulnerable populations with CARES Act funding both maintains street outreach activities preventing the spread of COVID-19 and sustains shelter capacity by equipping facilities and staff. It also preserves homeless assistance funding for activities such as rapid re-housing opportunities and the expansion of shelter beds. The County has observed a significant increase in encampments during the COVID-19 public health emergency. More persons are in encampments and a significant increase in the amount of belongings accumulated at camp sites has been noted by outreach workers and community members. The Center for Disease Control has issued recommendations for homeless encampments to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The County issued an RFP for an agency to partner with the County and the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC), and Kingdom Causes Inc., dba City Net was the qualified respondent. As one of the largest and most effective providers of street outreach and engagement services in southern California, City Net is uniquely positioned to partner with the County of Santa Barbara to achieve housing solutions for homeless neighbors living in unsheltered encampments. City Net currently manages homeless services projects funded through federal, state, county and city contracts. Among other

outcomes, City Net has achieved street exits by utilizing all shelter and housing opportunities available through the Continuums of Care (CoC) within the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Barbara and Orange. City Net will work with the County to mitigate homeless encampment impacts on the community while establishing rapport with homeless individuals through progressive engagement with the goal of linking individuals to a permanent housing resource and preventing community spread of COVID-19. Street engagement focused on linking participants to housing interventions is a best practice. A high degree of coordination improves efficiency, resulting in the effective housing of unsheltered homeless persons. A one-year budget is proposed for a team of four (4) FTEs plus supplies, mileage and client incentives.

The Targeted Outreach to Homeless Encampments will provide delivery of homeless outreach services targeted to encampment sites. The focus of services will be to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. In addition to COVID-19 mitigation, outreach will provide service system navigation, integrating targeted outreach and engagement, operating countywide. As noted in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Interim Guidance on People Experiencing Homelessness, people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (those sleeping outside or in places not meant for human habitation) may be at risk for infection when there is community spread of COVID-19.

Performance Measure:

The provider will provide quarterly reports to the County on services provided and the outcomes, or performance measures, which have been outlined in their scope of work. Table 1 summarizes the number of households to be served and percentage entering permanent housing. Program design, funding allocations within budgeted line items, and the characteristics of individuals and households served will vary, depending on the progression of the pandemic. CSD will provide the Board of Supervisors a summary of all COVID-19 homelessness response activities and outcomes.

Table 1: Goals – Individuals/Households Served

Goals

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

Street Outreach

	Goal
Total unduplicated number of persons served	120

Performance Measures

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

Street Outreach

	Goal
% of participants will move into emergency shelter at project exit	10
% of participants will move into transitional housing at project exit	4
% of participants will move into rapid rehousing at project exit	10
% of participants will move into permanent housing (other than RRH) at project exit	20

% of adult participants gaining new or increasing earned income at project exit	10
% of adult participants will obtain cash/non-cash benefits at project exit	15

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

General Fund			
State		\$	443,100.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$	-	\$ 443,100.00

Narrative: The \$443,100 will be used for financial assistance and services. The source is the County Executive Office CARES Fund (\$150,000; to be expended by December 30, 2020), and the Emergency Solutions Grant ESG-CV (\$293,100; to be expended by September 14, 2021).

Key Contract Risks:

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of ESG-CV and CARES Act in accordance with all federal and state requirements governing their use. In addition, it would be held liable if it or any provider to which it sub-grants funds is found to be non-compliant with applicable requirements. Kingdom Causes, Inc., dba City Net has successfully operated State and/or federally-funded homeless assistance projects in the past which have had similar regulatory and administrative requirements.

The ESG-CV and CARES Act Program sub-recipient Agreement is a cost-reimbursement contract. This allows CSD/HCD to disburse funds to the aforementioned ESG-CV and CARES Act Program Sub-recipient for eligible incurred costs to the extent prescribed by the Agreement. The County will only reimburse ESG-CV and CARES Act Program sub-recipient for costs that are eligible under the Agreements and documented in a manner that is acceptable to the CSD/HCD. CSD/HCD staff will assess the performance of the sub-recipient to determine if the services provided are adequate and as outline in the Agreement.

Special Instructions:

- 1) Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Dinah Lockhart at dlockhart@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

- A) Sub-recipient Agreement for Kingdom Causes, Inc., dba City Net

Authored by: Lucille Boss, Senior Housing Program Specialist

cc: