



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:** Behavioral Wellness  
**Department No.:** 043  
**For Agenda Of:** February 28, 2017  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Alice Gleghorn, PhD, Director  
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220  
Contact Info: Laura Zeitz, RN, Program Manager  
Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220

**SUBJECT: Report on Application for No Place Like Home Program Funds**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: General Services

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file Board letter reporting on Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness' intent to apply for State funding for the No Place Like Home Program; and
- B. Direct staff to return to the Board of Supervisors for consideration of acceptance, should the funding be awarded.
- C. Determine that the proposed action is not subject to the California Environmental Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) since the recommended actions are government administrative activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

AB 1618/AB 1628 (2016) created the No Place Like Home (NPLH) Program which will reallocate a portion of statewide Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds – established through Proposition 63 in 2004 – into a new state fund. The NPLH Fund will provide up to \$2 billion in bond funds for distribution among counties for development of permanent supportive housing to the target population of homeless individuals or individuals who are at risk of homelessness and who are living with a serious mental illness.

Behavioral Wellness is applying for competitive, noncompetitive and technical assistance funding on behalf of Santa Barbara County under the No Place Like Home Program (Welfare & Institutions Code §§ 5849.1 et seq.).

**Background:**

On July 1, 2016, Governor Brown signed landmark legislation enacting the NPLH Program to dedicate \$2 billion in bond proceeds to invest in the development of permanent supportive housing for persons who are living with a severe mental illness (SMI) and are in need of mental health and/or substance use services and are experiencing chronic homelessness, or are at-risk of chronic homelessness, or homelessness. The specific population to be served will be adults with SMI, or children with severe emotional disorders and their families. Chronic homelessness includes persons who currently homeless, are at high risk of long-term or intermittent homelessness, including persons with mental illness exiting institutionalized settings, transition age youth experiencing homelessness or with significant barriers to housing stability.

Counties may apply for these funds as the sole applicant(s) if they are the development sponsor, or jointly with a developer as development sponsor. They must also make a minimum 20-year commitment to providing tenants of the new supported housing developments with mental health services, and help coordinate tenant access to other community-based supportive services.

Funds distributed will be made available as loans underwritten by the California State office of Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). These loans, which may be made directly to developers or to individual counties, are for the purchase, renovation, construction, of new permanent supported housing. This funding for permanent supportive housing must utilize low barrier tenant selection practices that prioritize and offer flexible, voluntary, and individualized supportive services.

There are two funding allocations:

1. Non-competitive funds based on county population of homeless (our estimated allocation \$2.4 million) (W&I Code section 5849.9)
2. Competitive funds which will be awarded, after application review, to a group comprised of California medium sized counties based on general population (W&I Code section 5849.7-5849.8). We are not able to provide an accurate prediction of our potential allocation for this round due to the competitive nature or the awards to mid-sized counties.

Notice of funding availability for both the Competitive and Non-competitive allocations are anticipated to be released in the Winter of 2018.

In order to jump start the program, and pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5849.10, funds will be available to provide technical assistance (TA) to counties in the form of grants. Santa Barbara County anticipates receiving \$100,000 for TA purposes.

Use of TA funds shall include, but not be limited to, providing technical assistance around the performance of the following activities:

- Applying for program funds,
- Implementing NPLH activities,
- Hiring staff or consultants to assist with:
  - Identifying potential sites
  - Developing a process to identify potential developers
  - Monitoring activities of developers to ensure adherence with NPLH

Applications for TA funds are currently being accepted until June 2017. As applications are being received, award letters will be sent to awardees through August 2017.

BeWell has had preliminary meetings with leadership at SB county HCD leadership who will assist with notification of funding and vetting of potential development partners.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The fiscal and facilities impact of receiving these additional funds will be fully evaluated prior to requesting authorization from the Board of Supervisors to accept the funds.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

A Budget Revision Request will be necessary to adjust Behavioral Wellness revenue and expense budgets if any of the allocations are awarded and accepted as directed by the Board of Supervisors.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one (1) scanned copy of the Minute Order to: qilopez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

**Authored by:**

Quiana Lopez/Laura Zeitz