



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:   | Social Services       |
| Department No.:    | 044                   |
| Agenda Date:       | January 27, 2026      |
| Placement:         | Administrative Agenda |
| Estimated Time:    |                       |
| Continued Item:    | No                    |
| If Yes, date from: |                       |
| Vote Required:     | Majority              |

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director: Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director  
Contact: Luis F. Servin, WDB Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Memorandum of Understanding with City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department to Establish the Community Connections Corps Program and Agreement with Foundation for California Community Colleges for Career Catalyst Services

---

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Social Services Director or designee to receive the Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant in the amount of \$900,000 from the State of California Employment Development Department;
- b) Approve and authorize the Social Services Director or designee, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department to establish the Community Connections Corps Program upon County Counsel and Risk concurrence;
- c) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Foundation for California Community Colleges to provide employer of record services (Career Catalyst Services) for the Community Connections Corps Program for a total contract amount not to exceed \$151,362.41 for the period of January 27, 2026, through August 22, 2026;

- d) Authorize the Director of Social Services or designee, to execute the Worksite Agreement (Exhibit E in the Agreement) with Foundation for California Community Colleges to participate as a worksite in the Community Connections Corps Program;
- e) Authorize the Director of Social Services or designee, to extend the Agreement with Foundation for California Community Colleges to provide employer of records services (Career Catalyst Services) for the Community Connections Corps Program and allocate the amount of unused funds from the previous fiscal year budget to the next fiscal year budget, subject to appropriations and budget approval and concurrence from Auditor-Controller;
- f) Authorize the Director of Social Services, or designee, to reallocate the budgeted line items of the Agreement with Foundation for California Community Colleges without exceeding the total contract amount;
- g) Authorize the Director of Social Services, or designee, to accept additional funds and extend the term of the Agreement with Foundation for California Community Colleges subject to concurrence from County Counsel and Auditor-Controller; and
- h) Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors, as the Chief Local Elected Official, to accept \$900,000 of grant funds from the State of California Employment Development Department (EDD) for a Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Project for the period of December 2025 to August 2026. The grant-funded program will assume the name of Community Connections Corps. Implementation of the Community Connections Corps will be in partnership with the City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department and the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC), serving as the employer of record for the related paid work experience. This partnership aims to enhance the employability of individuals within the community by offering paid work experience opportunities working in public areas and parks in Santa Maria, thereby fostering economic growth while enhancing job program participants' self-sufficiency.

**Discussion:**

Accepting the \$900,000 Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Grant funds and executing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department, and agreement with FCCC will allow us to establish the Community Connections Corps Program, which will provide unemployed job seekers the opportunity to work improving public spaces of our County while gaining valuable skills and work experience. By integrating workforce development with community projects, the program aims to empower job seekers not only to secure temporary employment but also to make a positive contribution to their communities. This collaboration will support a dual mission: building a skilled workforce while enhancing community resilience and cohesion, leading to lasting impacts on both individual lives and the broader community. Eligible participants will receive approximately 420 hours of paid work experience working in public parks and areas performing tasks such as clean up and repair work of structures,

facilities, and lands. As an employer of record, FCCC will manage human resources, payroll, workers' compensation, and compliance responsibilities for participants in work-based learning opportunities.

**Background:**

Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants are federal grants provided by the U.S. Department of Labor through the State. These grants are intended to support the employment and training needs of workers who have lost their jobs or faced significant barriers to employment. Secondly, these grants are designed to create temporary employment opportunities for those workers to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts when an area impacted by an emergency or major disaster is declared eligible for public assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or is declared or recognized as an emergency or disaster of national significance by a Federal agency.

The State, Employment Development Department (EDD) applied for and was awarded funding in connection with the severe storm that affected California between January 31 and February 9, 2024. This storm resulted in record rainfall, causing significant damage to many public areas across the State and our county.

Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board (SBCWDB) applied for funding leading to EDD awarding \$900,000 to assist with remaining clean-up and recovery efforts. The funding allows SBCWDB to provide temporary employment opportunities to unemployed job seekers. The work to be performed by job seekers, while completing the paid work experience, includes the demolition, repair, renovation, and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed structures, facilities, and public areas located within our county.

SBCWDB will administer and operate the program, while the City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department will identify the worksites (eligible public areas), provide the supervision of participants, and monitor the work to be completed. FCCC will facilitate the employer of record services. Employer of record services minimize the burden on program staff, participants, and businesses. As part of the agreement, FCCC will manage on-boarding assistance, employee relations, payroll services, leave management services, Worker's Compensation, and unemployment insurance claims.

The funding will be awarded in two allocations of \$400,000 and \$500,000 subject to the availability of funding and approval from the California Employment Development Department.

**Performance Measure:**

Included in the Agreement with FCCC is a requirement that the Contractor (FCCC) shall serve 100% of participants referred during the duration of the program.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

| Funding Source | FY 2025-26 | FY 2026-27 | FY 2027-28 | FY 2028-29 | Total     |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| General Fund   |            |            |            |            | 0         |
| State          |            |            |            |            | 0         |
| Federal        | \$720,000  | \$180,000  |            |            | \$900,000 |
| Fees           |            |            |            |            | 0         |

|              |                  |                  |  |  |                  |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|--|--|------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$720,000</b> | <b>\$180,000</b> |  |  | <b>\$900,000</b> |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|--|--|------------------|

The Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA) awarded the WDB federal funds in the amount of \$900,000 for the period of January 27, 2026 through August 22, 2026. This federal grant does not require a local match and the recommended action will result in no impact to the General Fund. The contract with FCCC for \$151,362.41 is funded by the DOLETA as part of any award totaling \$900,000 (100%) with \$0 (0%) state, local, and/or non-federal sources.

**Staffing Impacts:**

None.

**Special Instructions:**

Please scan, email and send one (1) copy of the minute order to:  
DSS Procurement and Contracts Unit  
C/O Tricia Beebe  
2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Email: [tbeebe@countyofsb.org](mailto:tbeebe@countyofsb.org)

**Attachments:**

- **Attachment A** – Agreement – FCCC – CCS – Community Connections Corps Program

**Contact Information:**

Tricia Beebe  
Procurement and Contracts Manager  
[tbeebe@countyofsb.org](mailto:tbeebe@countyofsb.org)

Pedro Sotelo  
SBCWDB Program Analyst  
[psotel2@countyofsb.org](mailto:psotel2@countyofsb.org)