



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 Sub-Recipient Agreements for CARES Act funding for COVID-19 Homelessness Response

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: YES

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: YES

Risk Concurrence:

As to form: YES

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute agreements using CARES Act funds allocated through the State of California for continued COVID-19 homelessness response for the following proposed sub-recipients:
 - a. \$447,274 to Good Samaritan Shelter for increased Emergency Shelter costs (\$397,274) and the purchase of trailers (\$50,000) for COVID-19 isolation;
 - b. \$56,775 to New Beginnings Counseling Center for increased Homeless Street Outreach costs;
 - c. \$248,763 to PATH Santa Barbara for increased Emergency Shelter costs;
 - d. \$92,639 to United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County (United Way) for increased homeless street outreach costs;
 - e. \$72,168 to Domestic Violence Solutions (DVS) for increased Emergency Shelter costs;
 - f. \$101,883 to Unitarian Society/Freedom Warming Centers for increased Emergency Shelter costs;
 - g. \$196,425 to Transition House for increased Emergency Shelter costs.
- 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

Approval of use of CARES Act funding for continued COVID-19 Homelessness Response

October 20, 2020

Page 2 of 5

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:

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. CSD is requesting authorization to utilize County CARES Act funds for Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach activities to help providers mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our unhoused neighbors and cover increased cost incurred by providers in response to the public health emergency. Sub-recipient agreements to the providers in the amounts outlined in Table 1 are attached for approval and authorization.

Emergency Shelters have experienced a significant increase in operating costs due to shelter in place orders and efforts to protect staff and their clients. These costs include increased staffing, safety pay, cleaning services and supplies, personal protective equipment, isolation comfort items, hotel room rentals for isolation, and increased food costs to replace the meal typically provided by volunteer groups who could no longer enter the facilities. As part of the Emergency Shelter Response, Good Samaritan Shelter is requesting funds to cover the cost of trailers purchased for their North County campus to isolate COVID-19 positive or medically vulnerable clients.

Street outreach costs increased due to COVID, including safety pay for staff, personal protective equipment, hygiene kits, prepaid cell phones, solar chargers to replace lost access to public facilities such as libraries, food distributions to address food insecurity caused by a decrease in congregate feeding programs, and safety pay for staff working directly with clients. Hand washing stations and sanitation services have been deployed throughout the County of Santa Barbara to provide the opportunity for our vulnerable and unhoused populations to follow CDC handwashing guidelines even with the decreased access to often used indoor facilities such as gyms, libraries, or public building.

Table 1: CARES Act Sub-Recipient Agreements

Provider	Activity/Component Type	Detail (lists are not exhaustive)	Total Contract Amount
Good Samaritan Shelter	Emergency Shelter	Safety pay, additional staffing, PPE, supplies/food, security, and portable restrooms.	\$397,274
Good Samaritan Shelter	Emergency Shelter	Purchase of four trailers for isolation of COVID positive and medically vulnerable clients.	\$50,000

Approval of use of CARES Act funding for continued COVID-19 Homelessness Response

October 20, 2020

Page 3 of 5

PATH Santa Barbara	Emergency Shelter	Safety pay, janitorial services and cleaning supplies, food, PPE, and isolation items.	\$248,763
Unitarian Society (Freedom Warming Centers)	Emergency Shelter	Increased staffing, PPE, food, sanitation items.	\$101,883
Domestic Violence Solutions	Emergency Shelter	PPE, cleaning and sanitization supplies, hotel costs, food.	\$72,168
Transition House	Emergency Shelter	Additional staffing, PPE/supplies, food, construction of safe meeting spaces, testing, remote technology for learning.	\$196,425
New Beginnings Counseling Center	Street Outreach	PPE, hygiene kits, supplemental food, hotel costs for isolation, and safety pay.	\$56,775
United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County	Street Outreach	PPE, solar chargers, pre-paid phones for clients, hygiene kits, food and water for distribution, increased staff costs.	\$92,639
Showers of Blessing**	Street Outreach	Meals provided at showering locations.	\$45,000
Food Bag Collaborative**	Street Outreach	Grocery distribution by Doctors without Walls and other partners.	\$33,760
Hand Washing Stations and Sanitation Services **	Street Outreach	Sinks with water, soap, and paper towels placed and maintained county-wide, debris removal at encampments.	\$77,000
TOTAL			\$1,371,687

**No Board Contract Required, contracting will be run through existing purchasing process, provided for informational purposes only.

Background:

Emergency shelter and street outreach service providers have been rapidly responding to the ever-changing crisis. Often, emergency costs incurred were beyond annual budgeted amounts and there was no funding mechanism available to cover the costs in real time. In addition to items necessary to mitigate viral spread, providers also had to fill the void left by the loss of public spaces often used by people experiencing homelessness to perform daily activities, the cessation of volunteers providing food and services in emergency shelters, and the need to isolate individuals and families after COVID-19 exposure or due to medical vulnerabilities.

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:

Approval of use of CARES Act funding for continued COVID-19 Homelessness Response

October 20, 2020

Page 4 of 5

- 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

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. Providers completed applications as part of a noncompetitive, local allocation process to cover supplies and activities precipitated by their COVID-19 responses and not cover by another funding source. Providers were asked to submit reimbursement requests with backup documentation as well as project costs through December 30, 2020. These were reviewed by HCD staff for eligibility.

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.

Performance Measure:

The providers requiring subrecipient agreements will provide monthly reports to the County on services provided and the outcomes, or performance measures, which have been outlined in their respective scopes of work. Program design, funding allocations, and the characteristics of individuals and households served by each sub-recipient will vary and be impacted by the progression of the pandemic. CSD will provide the Board of Supervisors a summary of all COVID-19 homelessness response activities and outcomes.

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			
State			\$ 1,371,687.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total		\$ -	\$ 1,371,687.00

Approval of use of CARES Act funding for continued COVID-19 Homelessness Response

October 20, 2020

Page 5 of 5

Narrative: These County CARES Act funds will be used to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 for people experiencing homelessness. They will be fully expended on or before December 30, 2020.

Key Contract Risks:

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of CARES Act funds in accordance with all state and federal 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. Good Samaritan Shelter, New Beginnings Counseling Center, DVS, The United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County, and PATH Santa Barbara have all successfully operated State and/or federally-funded homeless assistance projects in the past which have had similar regulatory and administrative requirements.

The CARES Act Sub-recipient Agreements are cost-reimbursement contracts. This allows CSD/HCD to disburse funds to the aforementioned Sub-recipients for eligible incurred costs to the extent prescribed by the Agreement. The County will only reimburse Sub-recipients 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-recipients 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) County CARES Act Sub-recipient Agreement for Good Samaritan Shelter;
- B) County CARES Act Sub-recipient Agreement for New Beginnings Counseling Center;
- C) County CARES Act Sub-recipient Agreement for PATH Santa Barbara
- D) County CARES Act Sub-recipient Agreement for United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County
- E) County CARES Act Sub-recipient Agreement for Domestic Violence Solutions
- F) County CARES Act Sub-recipient Agreement for Unitarian Society/Freedom Warming Centers
- G) County CARES Act Sub-recipient Agreement for Transition House

Authored by: Jett Black-Maertz, Housing Program Specialist Sr., CSD

CC: