



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: Social Services
Department No.: 044
For Agenda Of: March 12, 2024
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 45 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director
Director(s) (805) 346-7101
Contact Info: Luis F. Servin, WDB Executive Director
805-614-1543

SUBJECT: Farmworker Resource Center Project Update

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file presentation and update on the activities and impact of the Farmworker Resource Center project; and
- b) Determine that the proposed action is related to organization or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and is therefore is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378 (b)(5).

Summary Text:

The purpose of this item is to provide your Board with an update on the Farmworker Resource Center (FRC) project. The goal of the FRC project is to establish a farmworker resource center that would provide farmworkers and their families information and access to valuable services and resources, such as access to financial assistance, emergency supportive services, education access and support, and information on employment and training opportunities. The FRC project is funded by a \$833,000 competitive grant awarded by the State Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) and 25% local funding match in the amount of \$208,250, as required by the grant. The grant term for the project is July 15, 2023 to May 15, 2024. As a result of fiscal planning, the FRC project will be operational through June 30, 2024.

Since the FRC project launched in July of 2023, the project has engaged with over 10,000 farmworkers, registered over 4,000 farmworkers, and provided referral services to over 3,000 farmworkers clearly outperforming other CSD-funded Farmworker Resource Centers. Additionally, the project has successfully established partnerships with over 45 community based organizations and 11 local agriculture employers. Lastly, the program has participated in over 80 community events and collaborated on 16 different events in partnership with local employers.

Background:

On September 21, 2021 Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB941 (Bennet, Chapter 203) into law, that requires CSD to establish a grant program for counties to establish farmworker resource centers that would provide farmworkers and their families information and access to services, ranging from but not limited to the following:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Labor and Employment Rights | Employment Assistance and Advocacy |
| Education Access and Support | Financial Assistance |
| Emergency Supportive Assistance and Referrals | Health and Human Services |

On November 15, 2022, CSD released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which outlined the goals and objectives, required activities, and suggested characteristics of a successful center. Also, according to the NOFA, \$2.5 million would be awarded in the form of three grants for \$833,000 each to counties with significant populations of farmworkers in two target regions: 1) San Joaquin Valley and Northern California; and 2) Central Coast and Southern California.

On November 29, 2022, the Board approved and authorized Department of Social Services (DSS) to complete and submit a grant application to CSD for the amount of \$833,000 with a commitment to provide \$208,250 of required matching funds. DSS designated the Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board (WDB) as the division to oversee this project.

On January 12, 2023, CSD notified DSS/WDB of the award of the grant for the proposed amount for the period of February 15, 2023 through May 15, 2024.

On February 28, 2023, this Board approved and authorized the DSS Director to accept the grant and sign all required CSD agreements, starting the implementation process. The project officially started providing services on July 15, 2023 in accordance with grant requirements.

Lastly, County staff appeared before this Board and provided an initial update on December 12, 2023.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with receiving and filing this report.

The CSD grant currently funding the FRC project is set to term on May 15, 2024. County staff are actively pursuing funding opportunities to support the program after the end of the CSD grant. This includes complete grants through, for example, the State of California Employment Development Department and the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development. Staff are also exploring

local community based funding opportunities such as CenCal's Community Benefit Funding and through partnerships with community partners.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – PowerPoint Presentation

Authored by:

Luis F. Servin, WDB Executive Director

Tricia Beebe, Procurement and Contracts Supervisor