



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 15, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Jesús Armas, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director(s)
Contact Info: Joe Dzvonik, Deputy Director Housing and Community
Development (805) 568-3523

SUBJECT: Authorization to Receive State Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program
(HHIP) Funds

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. Authorize the Community Services Department (CSD) Director to execute, on behalf of the County as the lead agency of the Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC), a Housing and Homeless Incentive Program Funding Agreement by and between the CoC and the Santa Barbara San Luis Obispo Regional Health Authority, doing business as CenCal Health (CenCal) governing the use of \$3,000,000 in Round 3 State Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) funds to support Hope Village and La Posada interim housing operations, subject to review of, and concurrence with respect to, such Agreement by County Counsel, Risk Management, and Auditor-Controller (Interim Housing HHIP Agreement).
- b. Authorize the CSD Director to execute, on behalf of the County as the lead agency of the CoC, a Housing and Homeless Incentive Program Funding Agreement (Agreement) by and between the CoC and CenCal governing the use of \$860,425 in Round 3 HHIP funds to support the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), subject to review of, and concurrence with respect to, such Agreement by County Counsel, Risk Management, and Auditor-Controller (HMIS HHIP Agreement).
- c. Determine that the above recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to

CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as the actions are organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

CenCal has allocated \$3,860,425 in Round 3 Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program funding (HHIP Funding) through two Transformation Awards to support efforts to address homelessness:

1. \$3,000,000 (Interim Housing Funding) to support operations for Hope Village and La Posada interim housing villages (Projects) operated by Good Samaritan Shelter. The two Projects include 174 residential cabins for non-congregate shelter.
2. \$860,425 (HMIS Funding) to fund the software costs associated with the HMIS under a contract with a new vendor, Bitfocus Clarity. The HMIS Funding will improve the homelessness response system by increasing access to the Coordinated Entry System (CES) and expanding the HMIS to enhance referrals for CenCal members experiencing homelessness.

Staff is recommending authorization for the CSD Director to sign the Interim Housing HHIP Agreement and the HMIS HHIP Agreement (Agreements) in a form substantially similar to the Form of Agreement attached hereto (Attachment A), subject to review of, and concurrence with respect to, such Agreements by County Counsel, Risk Management, and Auditor-Controller, to receive this valuable new funding.

Background:

HHIP is a voluntary incentive program funded by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) designed to enable Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) to earn funds for efforts to address homelessness and housing insecurity as social determinants of health. HHIP serves as a bridge to full implementation of CalAIM for persons experiencing homelessness, through strengthening infrastructure and capacity. CenCal, the MCP for Santa Barbara County, has earned, a total of \$14,209,671 in HHIP incentives to support these efforts in Santa Barbara County in three rounds of funding. Two rounds of the HHIP funding has been distributed by CenCal to community partners to date. CenCal contracted with the County, as the CoC lead, on January 24, 2022 to partner with the CoC to collaboratively achieve incentive metrics. This collaboration increased the capacity to support referrals for services, increased access to the HMIS, and supported the operations of the CES. This partnership enabled CenCal to better track and improve performance metrics.

Interim Housing Support

The County has provided the land and operational funding to provide the robust services and staff to make the Hope Village and La Posada Projects successful. The total needed operational investment for the two Projects for a five-year period is projected to be \$22 Million. The capital development cost of the two Projects is \$13 Million. The County is receiving the HHIP Funds from CenCal as a Transformation Award toward operational costs of the two Projects. This will ensure the Projects have adequate funding to meet the complex needs of residents. The County has contracted with Good Samaritan Shelter to operate the Projects and leverage CalAIM-funded services for residents of each of the Projects.

The two Projects align well with CenCal's HHIP Local Investment Plan to increase access to safe housing, deliver tailored support services, and provide accessible services and supports for persons with serious mental illness. La Posada includes 40 of the 80 residential units for persons with serious mental illness as

the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing initiative. Hope Village includes 30 of the 94 units for recuperative care. Other units in the Projects will serve persons exiting dangerous encampments, unhoused veterans, transitional age youth and others experiencing homelessness.

Homeless Management Information System

HMIS is a critical part of coordination of care for CenCal members. HMIS is the client-level database for homeless services providers. It has been a vital tool for HHIP, but also for the implementation of Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports. CenCal's early investment of \$560,000 into HMIS and CES staff maximized the incentive bonuses and enhanced provider and MCP coordination to serve persons experiencing homelessness.

The CoC will be switching to a new HMIS vendor this fall as a necessary step to ensure quality of care coordination. It will allow providers to avoid costly double entry of data into multiple systems and make the system more user-friendly for reporting and integration with other systems. These improvements will have a significant benefit for smaller-staffed nonprofit service providers who were previously unable to participate in our HMIS, therefore increasing the overall number of providers and improving our ability to understand homelessness in our community with even better clarity.

The CoC is receiving HHIP Funding in the amount of \$860,425 to support the migration and HMIS software costs for up to five years. The County of Santa Barbara is the administrative entity for the CoC and therefore would administer the HMIS Funding on behalf of the CoC.

Performance Measures

The HHIP Funding was earned by meeting the performance measures in Table 1, below. The HHIP Funding is to accelerate the implementation of CalAIM for unhoused persons. Specifically, CenCal increased the percentage of their members housed by 10.6% and those members who were successfully housed had an 89% retention rate to earn the HHIP Funding. Both La Posada and Hope Village have detailed performance metrics for each Project pursuant to other contracts approved by the Board. HMIS is used to track many of the applicable performance metrics. CenCal Health in collaboration with the CoC achieved 91% of the measures for HHIP listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program Metrics to Earn Funding

Measure Area	Measure Goal
Connection and integration with the local CES	Increase access for CenCal Health members
Partnerships with organizations that deliver housing services with which the MCP has a data sharing agreement that allows for timely exchange of information and member matching.	75% increase in number of organizations contracted
Connection with street medicine team providing healthcare for individuals who are homeless.	10% increase in members receiving care from street medicine partner
CenCal Health connection with the local Homeless Management Information System	Ability to receive timely alerts when a member has a change in housing status

CenCal Health members experiencing homelessness receiving at least one housing-related Community Supports	10% increase in number of members accessing Community Supports
CenCal Health members who were successfully housed	35% increase in members housed
CenCal Health members who remained successfully housed	85% of members maintain housing

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No. The estimated amount of HHIP Funds to be used under the Agreement in the current fiscal year is \$200,000. Therefore, no budget revision is included. The remaining HHIP Funds will be included in the FY 25-26 budget process. The HHIP Funding will be used within a five-year period.

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	\$200,000		
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$200,000	\$ -	

Narrative: \$200,000 of the HMIS Funding will be used for HMIS one-time costs and six months of HMIS licensing fees. The Interim Housing Funding is essential for ensuring that both Hope Village and La Posada are funded for their 5-year project periods. The Interim Housing Funding will be divided evenly between the Projects, approximately \$1.5M for each Project.

Key Contract Risks:

HHIP is a State-funded program, and the HHIP Funding is subject to Program requirements governing the use of such funds. As the administrative entity for the recipient of the HHIP Funding, the CoC, the County is responsible for ensuring that the HHIP Funding is used in accordance with HHIP requirements in support of the mutually agreed upon Local Homelessness Plan. CSD has experience administering funds under funding programs with similar requirements, such as the HUD CoC Program.

Staffing Impacts:

Staff costs directly related to implementing or carrying out activities funded by the HHIP Funds are included in the existing CSD budget. No additional staff is being considered.

Legal Positions:

N/A

FTEs:

N/A

Special Instructions: Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Kimberlee Albers at kalbers@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

A. Housing and Homeless Incentive Program Funding Agreement with CenCal Health

Authored by:

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