



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: June 16, 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 Tenant Based Rental Assistance Subrecipient Agreements for Homeless Emergency Aid Program Funds to Include COVID-19 Response

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute State of California Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) subrecipients agreements for funding for tenant based rental assistance/Rapid Re-housing and supportive services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the following current HEAP subrecipients:
 - a. \$300,000 to Good Samaritan Shelter
 - b. \$155,000 to New Beginnings Counseling Center
 - c. \$153,000 to PATH LeaseUP! and RRH

- 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 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:

Community Services (CSD) is the Administrative Entity/Lead Agency for the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC). CSD, operating under the authority of the Office of Emergency Services, has been coordinating the COVID-19 Homelessness Response. CSD is requesting to contract with local service providers for financial assistance, housing navigation and retention services to decompress the Santa Maria Emergency Shelter (SMES) and provide permanent housing to elderly and medically vulnerable persons placed in non-congregate shelters. Permanent housing provides a place to self-isolate and prevent the spread of COVID-19 through daily access to hygiene and individual living quarters. The Center for Disease Control recommends that communities plan to house persons in non-congregate shelter (NCS) to prevent returns to unsheltered homelessness or shelters with shared sleeping areas. CDC also has established guidelines for congregate shelters encouraging capacities that allow for social distancing.

Rental assistance/housing navigation costs include rent subsidies paid to private landlords and the supportive services to assist households in maintaining permanent housing once placed. A total of five providers have been identified to assist countywide. Good Samaritan Shelter would primarily serve in North County to reduce overcrowding at their shelters in Santa Maria and create opportunity for new guests. South County providers were chosen because of existing relationships with or ability to rehouse NCS guests. New Beginnings and PATH would work on permanently placing elderly and medically vulnerable South County NCS guests. The Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds were redirected by the CoC Board for COVID-19 response. All funds would be utilized prior to June 30, 2021. City Net and Parsons Group LLC will also assist with housing placements of NCS guests. Due to amounts, Board approval is not required to contract. Providers will be able to provide up to 12 months of tenant based rental assistance/Rapid Re-Housing per client household.

Proposed Provider Contracts	Number of Households Supported	Financial/Rental Assistance Amount	Supportive Services Amount	Total Contract Amount
Good Samaritan Shelter	22	189,970	110,030	\$300,000
New Beginnings Counseling Center	18	\$90,000	\$65,000	\$155,000
PATH Lease Up and RRH	18	\$79,960	\$73,040	\$153,000
CityNet**	4	\$61,000		\$61,000
Parsons Group LLC**	10	\$51,000		\$51,000
TOTAL	72			\$720,000

**Board approval not required

Background:

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:

- 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

On April 2, 2020, the CoC Board approved the redirection of previously allocated funding toward the COVID-19 Homelessness Response, including \$720,000 of Homeless Emergency Aid Program dollars. The CoC also voted to empower the CoC Administrative Entity/Lead Agency (CSD) to direct the emergency funds toward activities that align with the state's suggested uses and serve the needs of the homeless population of Santa Barbara County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The County of Santa Barbara launched NCS in response to COVID-19 in Santa Barbara on April 20, 2020. The targeted populations for NCS are individuals who are asymptomatic, but are at "high-risk," such as people over 65 or who have certain underlying health conditions such as: respiratory illness, compromised immune systems, or chronic disease. While there are some permanent housing resources available, without rental assistance and increased navigation services many more NCS guests will return to the streets or congregate shelter.

On May 14, the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care approved temporary changes to the Coordinated Entry System in response to the public health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes will ensure the coordinated entry process is flexible and responsive to current needs to rapidly address shelter capacity and help ensure that people placed in non-congregate shelters do not return to unsheltered homelessness or shelters with shared sleeping areas. The primary goal is to rapidly re-house as many persons as possible through COVID specific and other resources and utilize the full range of housing options to assist shelters.

Performance Measure:

The three providers requiring subrecipient agreements will provide quarterly reports to the County on services provided and the outcomes, or performance measures, which have been outlined in their respective scopes of work. Table 1 summarizes the number of households to be served and percentage entering permanent housing. All three providers have existing HEAP contracts. Program design, funding allocations, and the characteristics of individuals and households served by each sub-recipient vary and impact the project outcome percentages and numbers of persons and households served. Providers will be able to provide up to 12 months of tenant based rental assistance/Rapid Re-Housing per client household. Persons needing longer term assistance will be transitioned to alternate housing programs including Housing Choice Vouchers.

Table 1: Goals – Individuals/Households Served

Goal	Good Samaritan Shelter	New Beginnings Counseling Center	PATH SB
Unduplicated number of homeless households exiting shelter to permanent housing.	22	18	18
Percentage of households entering permanent housing that will retain housing for one year.	80%	80%	80%

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	\$ 720,000.00		\$ 720,000.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 720,000.00	\$ -	\$ 720,000.00

Narrative: The \$720,000 will be used for financial assistance and services. The source is State of California Homeless Emergency Aid Program funding previously allocated to a proposed South County Navigation Center. The County of Santa Barbara will continue to seek funding for a navigation center.

Key Contract Risks:

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of HEAP in accordance with all state 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, and PATH have all successfully operated State and/or federally-funded homeless assistance projects in the past which have had similar regulatory and administrative requirements.

The HEAP Program Sub-recipient Agreement is a cost-reimbursement contract. This allows CSD/HCD to disburse state funds to the aforementioned HEAP Program Sub-recipients for eligible incurred costs to the extent prescribed by the Agreement. The County will only reimburse HEAP Program 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 HEAP 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) HEAP Sub-recipient Agreement for Good Samaritan Shelter;
- B) HEAP Sub-recipient Agreement for New Beginnings Counseling Center;
- C) HEAP Sub-recipient Agreement for PATH Santa Barbara for Lease-Up SB!