



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: January 24, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: 4/5

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: 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 Director, or designee, to execute a Professional Services Agreement with CenCal Health to receive \$560,000 in State Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) funds through CenCal Health to support improvements to the homelessness response system and meet California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) program requirements.
- B) Approval of Budget Journal Entry No. 0008682 (Attachment B) for appropriations of \$560,000 of added revenue and corresponding expenses; and
- 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.

Summary Text:

CenCal Health has allocated \$560,000 in Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program funding (HHIP Funding) to support implementation of HHIP and prepare for implementation of California Innovating

and Advancing Medi-Cal (CalAIM) and community supports. The HHIP Funding will improve the homelessness response system by increasing access to the Coordinated Entry System (CES), expanding the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to enhance referrals for CenCal Health members experiencing homelessness, and facilitating the annual County Point-In-Time (PIT) count of people experiencing homelessness. The funding is based on two full-time equivalents for two years. A Housing Program Specialist Sr., contractors and consultants will be used to complete the extensive scope of work described in the Professional Services Agreement Statement of Work(Attachment A).

Community Services Department staff recommends (i) Board authorization for the Community Services Director, or designee, to execute a Professional Services Agreement with CenCal Health (Agreement), subject to review and concurrence of the Agreement by each of County Counsel, Risk, and Auditor-Controller, in order to receive the HHIP Funding from CenCal Health, and (ii) Board approval of budget journal entry No.0008682. Although the Agreement is not yet complete, the requested authorization will allow Community Services Department, Housing and Community Development Division (CSD/HCD) to execute the Agreement in time for the use of HHIP Funding for the PIT count, which will be held on January 25, 2023.

Background:

In accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, DHCS developed a Medi-Cal Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan detailing a series of initiatives, including HHIP. HHIP aims to improve health outcomes and access to whole person care services by addressing housing insecurity and instability as a social determinant of health for the Medi-Cal population. The goals of HHIP are to:

1. Reduce and prevent homelessness; and,
2. Ensure Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) develop the necessary capacity and partnerships to connect their members to needed housing services.

CenCal Health is the only MCP in Santa Barbara County. CSD/HCD, as the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC) Collaborative Applicant, has worked with CenCal Health to draft a Local Homelessness Plan, and has signed a letter of support of their investment plan for submission to the State of California as part of CenCal Health’s HHIP Application. The HHIP Funding is reliant on measures that will be tracked and coordinated through HMIS and CES. The HHIP Funding received by CSD/HCD will fund a fulltime Housing Program Specialist Senior, system configuration improvements, provide incentives and stipends to person with lived experience, and pay for needed contractors for implementation.

The CoC validated the partnership with CenCal in supporting the following proposed investment areas which align with the Local Homelessness Plan:

1. CoC and Local Homeless Organization Support: Address racial inequities by increasing access and expanding language interpreter/translator services.
2. CoC Support: Identify resources for the CoC to complete a comprehensive PIT count.
3. CoC & Managed Care Plan Support: Connect and integrate with the local Coordinated Entry System.

4. Member Support: Accessible services and supports for individuals with Serious Mental Illness/Serious Emotional Disturbance.
5. CoC Support: Increase access to safe, affordable housing.
6. CoC Support: Use best practices to deliver tailored support services.

By assisting in achieving the goals set in the CenCal Health Local Homelessness Plan, the County and CoC will enable CenCal Health to allocate more HHIP funds to address the homelessness of CenCal Health members in our community. HHIP is a bridge to full implementation of CalAIM for persons experiencing homelessness.

HMIS, CES, and the PIT count are essential activities to gather data to assist our unhoused neighbors. Authorizing CSD/HCD to receive the flexible HHIP funds from CenCal Health will build capacity to leverage healthcare funding to support housing, shelter, and services.

The purpose of the PIT count is to obtain a snapshot census of people experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County on a single night. The PIT count takes place in the last 10 days of January on an annual basis. The PIT count will also capture how many of the County’s unhoused residents are CenCal Health members.

Performance Measures

HHIP has an aggressive set of measures for MCPs to achieve in order to earn the HHIP incentive funding. The partnership with the CoC systems will be a major factor in tracking success.

The priority measures for HHIP include:

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: Yes, upon approval of Budget Journal Entry No. 0008682 (Attachment B)**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			\$ 560,000.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 560,000.00

Narrative: The attached budget revision will increase appropriations by \$560,000 in revenue and corresponding expenses.

Key Contract Risks: HHIP is a State-funded program subject to associated State requirements. As the recipient of HHIP funds, the County is responsible for ensuring that such funds are used in accordance with HHIP requirements in support of the mutually agreed upon Local Homelessness Plan. CSD/HCD has experience administering funding program with similar requirements, such as the HUD Continuum of Care Program.

Staffing Impacts:

<u>Legal Positions:</u>	<u>FTEs:</u>
Housing Program Specialist Sr.	1

CSD has an unfunded Housing Program Specialist Sr. position that will be used to staff this agreement. In addition, CSD will use the Homeless Management Information System support through the Community Technology Alliance and other consultants for another full time equivalent.

Special Instructions: Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Dinah Lockhart at dlockhart@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

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

Attachments:

- A. Professional Services Agreement with CenCal Health
- B. Budget Journal Entry No. 0008682

Authored by:

Kimberlee Albers, Homelessness Assistance Program Manager, Community Services Department, Housing and Community Development Division