



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 Service
Department No.: 044
For Agenda Of: December 12, 2023
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director 805-346-7101
Director(s)
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: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file presentation and update on the implementation 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 FRC project started July 15, 2023 and 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 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.

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:

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|---|------------------------------------|
| 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 targeted to counties with significant populations of farmworker in two target regions.

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.

Lastly, 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.

As part of the implementation of this project, a Needs Assessment Study was conducted to gather actionable information about resource needs of farmworkers and their families, how to best execute the mobile farmworker resource center, and the impacts of social factors within the farmworker population. The needs assessment consisted of over 2,000 surveys received from farmworkers, information and recommendations gathered from community-based organizations and employers through focus groups discussions and one-on-one interviews to develop the Needs Assessment Report (Attachment 1).

Following the Needs Assessment Report, a Project Plan (Attachment 2) was written to identify and operationalized the recommendations established in the Needs Assessment Report.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

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

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Needs Assessment Report
2. Attachment 2 – Project Plan

Authored by:

Luis F. Servin, Executive Director, WDB
Tricia Beebe, Procurement and Compliance Supervisor