



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: Behavioral Wellness
Department No.: 043
For Agenda Of: May 14, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Antonette Navarro, LMFT, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
Contact Info: Laura Zeitz, Interim Assistant Director
Department of Behavioral Wellness, (805) 681-5220
SUBJECT: **Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. FY 23–27 Grant Agreement for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program**

^{DS}
AN

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Director of the Department of Behavioral Wellness or designee to execute the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Grant Agreement 20456-CA BHBH-bhhb_556_bhhb_santa_barbara_county-01 with Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP), a Massachusetts for-profit entity (not a local provider), serving as the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) administrator for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) program, Agreement No. 22-20456, for the provision of emergency and interim housing and rental assistance for those who are experiencing or will be experiencing homelessness and who have serious behavioral health conditions for a maximum grant amount of \$9,932,242 for the period of June 23, 2023, through June 30, 2027; and
- b) Determine that the above action is a government funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity which does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell) was awarded a \$9,932,242 grant by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), administered by Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP) to operate bridge housing settings to address the immediate and sustainable housing needs of people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions. BWell will utilize these grant funds to expand emergency (up to 90 days) and interim (up to two years with the possibility of a one-year extension) housing for BWell clients who are challenged with severe and persistent mental illness and/or substance use disorder and are experiencing or will be experiencing homelessness.

Background: The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) developed the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program to operate bridge housing settings to address the immediate and sustainable housing needs of people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions, including a serious and persistent mental illness and/or substance use disorder. The program, which was signed into law in September 2022 under Assembly Bill 179 (Ting, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022), provides funding through June 30, 2027.

California has provided significant capital funding to create housing and treatment settings in recent years, including through programs such as Homekey, the Community Care Expansion program, and the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program. The BHBH Program is designed to complement these capital investments. In contrast to previous capital funding programs (listed above), the BHBH Program primarily provides operational and supportive services funding to expand bridge housing implementation with a primary focus to help people who have serious behavioral health conditions that prevent them from accessing help and moving out of homelessness.

Behavioral Wellness will be utilizing funding to expand emergency and interim housing including shelter beds, secure tiny home units, augment board and care services, and provide rental assistance to eligible clients. Clients who are experiencing or are at-risk of homelessness due to mental health and substance use issues are eligible for BHBH services, and priority will be given to those who participate in the CARE (Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment) justice diversion program upon program implementation. The CARE program was established in 2022 through Senate Bill 1338 with the intention of supporting individuals to avoid incarceration and conservatorship by connecting them with behavioral health services. Behavioral Wellness will partner with the courts and Public Defender to implement the CARE Program which is targeted to begin by the end of 2024.

BHBH funding will be utilized for 40 of the 80 temporary interim supporting housing units at the La Posada project in Santa Barbara as well as other emergency and interim housing throughout the county. BHBH funding will connect eligible BWell clients, including CARE Program participants, with emergency and interim housing opportunities with access to permanent supportive housing as needed. Current BWell staff will be reallocated to the BHBH project to serve as the Project Manager, Epidemiologist, and a Department Business Specialist who will administer program components, including securing emergency and interim housing, connect individuals with behavioral health resources, and ensure clients have access to permanent supportive housing units.

Performance Measure:

1. Submit quarterly progress reports that include narrative and data reports as well as progress toward meeting performance milestones.
2. Submit invoices of actual expenditures based on deliverables outlined in the contract.

Page 3 of 3

3. Deliver direct BHBH services including Shelter/Interim Housing, Rental Assistance, Auxiliary Funding in Assisted Living, and Housing Navigation as described in the BHBH Program Plan, including the service metrics and program requirements.
4. Collect program and individual data as described in the BHBH Program Plan and as requested by AHP.
5. Provide outreach and engagement services as described in the BHBH Program Plan and service metrics.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 23-24 Funding:</u>	<u>FY 24-25 Funding:</u>	<u>FY 25-26 Funding</u>	<u>FY 26-27 Funding</u>	<u>Total One-Time Grant FY 23-27:</u>
General Fund					
State	\$2,483,061.00	\$2,483,061.00	\$2,483,060.00	\$2,483,060.00	\$9,932,242.00
Federal Grant					\$ -
Fees					
Other:					
Total	\$ 2,483,061	\$ 2,483,061	\$ 2,483,060	\$ 2,483,060	\$ 9,932,242

Narrative: Funding for this program will come from the State Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program grant. The department will process a Budget Request Revision at a later date under a separate request after the Board has approved the acceptance of the funding. Funding will be added to the FY 23-24 Adopted Budget, if necessary. The funding has been included in the FY 24-25 requested budget, subject to Board approval.

Key Contract Risks:

The Agreement imposes procedural and reporting requirements that BWell will need to implement, which may be subject to future audit(s). Failure to fully comply with the reporting requirements detailed in the Agreement could result in the State withholding funding. If the Agreement is terminated for any reason by AHP and/or DHCS, County is entitled to payment from all allowable costs incurred up to the date of termination or cancellation. Neither AHP nor DHCS is liable for any work that is yet to be performed.

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the contract to msimongersuk@sbcbswell.org and to bwelcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: AHP FY 23-27 Grant Agreement 20456-CA BHBH-bhhb_556_bhhb_santa_barbara_county-01

Authored by:

A. Foschaar / E. Zuroske / M. Zavala