



**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:** County Executive  
**Department No.:** 012  
**For Agenda Of:** August 29, 2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Director: County Executive Office  
Contact Info: Tanja Heitman, Assistant County Executive Officer

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**SUBJECT: The Fund for Santa Barbara Agreement**

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**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 consider the following recommendations regarding the Fund for Santa Barbara Agreement, as follows:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute the Subrecipient Agreement with **The Fund for Santa Barbara** to update the Central Coast Regional Equity Study and development of shared online equity resources for a maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$50,000** for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 (Attachment A), to be paid from American Rescue Plan Act funds; and
- b) Determine that the proposed action does not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it consists of the creation of a government funding mechanism or other government fiscal activities, which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment, and pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary:**

This item is on the agenda to request approval to execute an agreement for updating of the Central Coast Regional Equity Study (CCRES) and creation and access to shared online equity resources for FY 23-24

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with The Fund for Santa Barbara (The Fund). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), will constitute the sole funding source.

In October 2021, the Board approved the Health and Human Services Recovery and Resiliency Strategies to support and provide structure to recovery activities and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the vulnerable, under resourced and underserved within the County. To support and provide structure to recovery activities and address the impacts of COVID-19 in the Santa Barbara community, ARPA requires a Diversity and Equity and Inclusion lens. The community level data available from The Fund's Central Coast Regional Equity Study and online access to equity tools will provide information of ongoing impacts while bolstering County staff's ability to focus on equity solutions when implementing county services funded by ARPA and other resources.

Approval of the recommended action will provide a contribution, along with other local partners, to the updating of the regional equity study and create opportunities for all county departments and staff to access online equity tools with technical assistance provided by The Fund.

**Background:**

In the spring of 2021, in addition to ensuring the ongoing robust response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County Executive Office initiated a review of key impacts in the health and human services sectors resulting from the pandemic. This effort was structured to ensure the provision of supports and safety net services to those immediately economically, socially and emotionally impacted by COVID-19, as well as address emerging mid and long-term recovery needs. Throughout the nation, state and locally, COVID-19 has disproportionality impacted communities of color, low wage essential workers, seniors and historically underserved and marginalized populations. In October 2021, the Board approved the Health and Human Services Recovery and Resiliency Strategies with focus areas of behavioral health, community health and wellbeing, economic revitalization and employment, organization and technology, housing and homelessness, and disaster resilience.

The Fund for Santa Barbara is a community foundation with over 40 years of experience in supporting community organizations in Santa Barbara County. The Fund acts as a regional intermediary and community partner toward guiding multidimensional and multisectoral approaches to transformative social change in the California Central Coast of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties. Their vision is to create a region that is economically, environmentally, and politically interconnected – where partners understand and appreciate their interdependencies, their differences, and their mutual responsibilities.

Over the years The County of Santa Barbara (County) has worked with the The Fund to advance equity throughout the region, including efforts to promote cross sectoral collaboration and to strengthen local organizations in Santa Barbara County working towards advancing equity. The Fund currently administers the County's Equity Fund Grant Program through a contract with the Community Services Department.

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**Discussion:**

This agreement will contribute toward the work of the Central Coast Regional Equity Initiative (CCREI) which is a community partnership led by The Fund and in collaboration with the UCSB Blum Center and the USC Regional Equity Institute. The CCREI aims to deepen the understanding of regional disparities, facilitate a region-wide multisectoral conversation, and advance equity through a community and research-informed action framework. Since it was initiated, the CCREI has worked to bring together collaborative partner organizations and institutions including the three lead organizations, twelve philanthropic partners, who have funded the initiative, and at least four other collaborative partners, who have contributed to the work, including other university research centers. They launched the region's first comprehensive equity report in December 2021.

The Central Coast Regional Equity Study (CCRES) published in 2021 provided data which was utilized by the child care and digital equity ARPA Recovery Strategy initiatives which were recently launched by Child Support Services and First 5 and approved by the Board. The CCRES identified impacts within the region such as the growing digital divide in the County and lack of available childcare resources for parents. The CCRES can help inform and expand the ARPA HHS recovery strategies, such as childcare and digital equity, and assist CCREI local partners in creation of solutions on addressing existing inequities.

This agreement will be comprised of two components. These are:

1. Updating the CCRES data by analyzing new Census data, drawing on community-held data, and continuing to engage community in models of participatory action research. This County has the opportunity to directly engage in the contribution of data, participation in developing research questions for specific equity topics, and leveraging relationships with key stakeholders to collect, analyze, and showcase data. Key partners include The Fund, UCSB Blum Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy (research facilitation and analysis partners) and USC Equity Research Institute (research production and analysis partners). The updated report will include 2023 equity indicator data updates for Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties and integration of County data into the body of research.
2. Developing stronger models of communication and connection/shared resources, including an enhanced comprehensive website, mini-report libraries, and online resource toolkits. This provides opportunities for the County to engage in the use of collaborative toolkits, including those developed around equity data and the CCREI's Strategic Action Plan. Key partners include The Fund and a website contractor. The Fund will be updating the CCREI's website, with full access for county staff and residents to all initiative tools, including readiness for change models, collaborative intersectoral change models, and equity data and information toolkits, issue-area reports, and Spanish equity collateral. Technical assistance for using resources and toolkits will be provided to staff.

**Performance Measure:**

The Fund shall satisfy the Performance Outcomes over grant period:

- Publish the updated CCRES.
- Distribute the CCRES to County and local partners and post online at CCREI website ([www.centralcoastequity.org](http://www.centralcoastequity.org)).
- Update CCREI website with equity tools to be made available to residents in Santa Barbara County online.

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- 100% of County departments seeking technical expertise for utilization of equity tools will receive support calls and/or assistance.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes; included in FY 23-24 Adopted Budget (APRA Funding).

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Total</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Agreement Total</u></b>
General Fund	\$ -	\$ -
State	\$ -	\$ -
Federal - ARPA	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00
Total	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00

Narrative: The recommended contract will be funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which is included within the Health and Human Services Recovery and Resiliency Plan for Community Wellbeing - Diversity and Equity Initiatives.

**Key Contract Risks**

The Agreement recommended for approval can be terminated by the County for non-appropriation of funds, or for convenience upon 30 days written notice. County Executive Office staff will assess performance and cost documentation prior to reimbursement in accordance with ARPA requirements.

**Staffing Impacts**

There are no staffing impacts.

**Special Instructions:**

Please email one (1) complete, signed Board Contract and one (1) Minute Order to [liwalter@countyofsb.org](mailto:liwalter@countyofsb.org).

**Attachments:**

- The Fund for Santa Barbara Board Contract

**Authored by:**

Lindsay Walter, Principal Management Analyst