



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: March 17, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Alice Gleghorn, PhD, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805.865.0592
Contact Info: Evelyn Zuroske, MEd Counseling, 805-681-5220
SUBJECT: Approval for the County of Santa Barbara to Participate in the Pet Assistance and Support (PAS) Program Grant

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 County to submit an application for Pet Assistance and Support (PAS) grant funds from the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (Attachment A), in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, for crates, pet food, veterinary services, staffing, and administrative services for use at a Navigation Respite Center that Behavioral Wellness is currently developing;
- B. Adopt a Resolution (Attachment B) that authorizes the County to participate in the PAS Program; and if funds are awarded, authorizes and directs the Department of Behavioral Wellness to act on behalf of the County in connection with the award of PAS grant funds subject to final approval by the Board; and
- C. Determine that the recommended actions are not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) and 15378(b)(4), finding that the recommended actions consist of administrative or fiscal activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (Department) released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for approximately \$5 million in PAS program funds. Funds will be awarded to qualified homeless shelters to provide shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for common household pets owned by individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as staffing and liability insurance related to providing those services.

This item is on the Board’s agenda to request approval to apply for and participate in the PAS grant funds if funds are awarded.

Background:

Behavioral Wellness (BWell) is in the process of identifying and securing property for a Navigation Respite Center which will be funded through State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and Homeless Housing and Assistance (HHAP) funds. The Respite Center’s focus will be to support unsheltered individuals who are experiencing mental health issues within close proximity to social service needs. Because pet ownership is a large barrier for entry into a safe, sheltered environment, BWell is creating this “low barrier” Respite Center. All efforts are being made to utilize a property owned by the County of Santa Barbara. At this time BWell is planning for 10 pets, but will expand as needs arise.

BWell will partner with CARE4Paws, a non-profit local organization promoting animal welfare. CARE4Paws assists low-income, senior, disabled and homeless pet owners with a wide range of veterinary services. CARE4Paws will provide resident's pets with spay/neuter services, vaccinations, parasite treatment, licensing and any other necessary services. CARE4Paws works closely with a local animal behaviorist who will provide pet owners and staff with appropriate training to ensure pet happiness and safety. If the animal is not appropriate for the shelter, at no cost to the County or pet owner, CARE4Paws will foster the animal while working with the animal behaviorist until the pet is able to be safely reunited with their owner. Should the owner be hospitalized or otherwise unable to care for their pet, CARE4Paws has agreed to foster the pet at no cost until the owner can resume responsibility.

During the Coordinated Entry System process, potential shelter residents with pets will be provided with appropriate veterinary care prior to entrance. Owners will be provided with a crate, food and water bowls, and any other supplies they may need. Only owners, pets, and appropriate staff will be permitted in the kennel area established on-site. Pets must be kept on a leash when they are not in the kennel area. Owners will be responsible for providing their pet with proper care, cleaning up messes, following all local ordinances and regulations, and ensuring that anyone exposed to the animal is safe. All pets on the premises will be properly vaccinated and free of parasites. Before securing a space in the shelter, owners will need to have their pets examined by the CARE4Paws veterinarian. The visit will be coordinated through the resident's case manager.

Performance Measure: The goal of the Respite Center is for at least 80% of the program participants to find permanent housing and gain employment or self supports. BWell will measure performance outcomes based on program participant satisfaction surveys asking whether the pet program assisted participants’ ability to move to permanent housing and whether participants received supports that increased their ability to take care of their pets.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	FY 20-21 Cost:	Annualized On-going Cost:	Total One-Time Project Cost
General Fund			
State			\$ 200,000.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00

Narrative:

The above referenced grant is funded by State funds. This funding source will be added to the FY 2020-2021 budget through a budget revision, if BWell is awarded the grant.

Key Contract Risks: If awarded a PAS grant, the County will be responsible for complying with all program requirements, other rules and laws, and in a manner consistent and in compliance with the Standard Agreement. BWell will return to the Board with the Standard Agreement for the PAS grant funds if awarded.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order and one (1) complete copy of the contract for each of the above to mejohanson@sbcbbwell.org and to bbwellcontractsstaff@co.santa-barbara.ca.us .

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Pet Assistance and Support Program Application
- Attachment B: Pet Assistance and Support Program (PAS) Resolution

Authored by:

Melanie Johnson