

County of Santa Barbara

Human Services Commission

County Executive Office



Summary

- ❑ HSC funding was discussed as part of the January 23, 2018 discussion on Renew 2022
- ❑ Options to consider: suspension, reduction or re-direction the discretionary general fund

Background

- ❑ The Human Services Commission (HSC) has advised the Board on the County's human services needs since 1977

- ❑ HSC funding has been \$1.2 million annually, including administration

- ❑ In 2015, the Board approved a new 3-tiered concept: best practices, basic services (3 years), and capacity building grants (annual)
 - Best Practices grants = \$50,000 - \$100,000 (\$450k)
 - Basic Services grants = \$20,000-\$50,000 (\$500k)
 - Mini Grants = \$5,000 - \$7,000 (\$60k)

Background, cont.

- ❑ HSC funding historically covers needs of seniors, children, families, homeless, disabled, persons with HIV/AIDS, and victims of abuse. Services include food, shelter, clothing, afterschool programs, counseling, case management, education and job training/placement
- ❑ Since 2011, HSC also provides guidance to the Board on federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)

HSC Funding Options

Option 1: Status Quo - Publish 3 year Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in February for full funding (\$1.2 million)

Option 2: Eliminate Mini Grants (5% of budget/\$60k; 3 year NOFA) and publish 3-year NOFA for Best Practices and Basic Services grants

Option 3: Eliminate budget by 5%; publish 1 NOFA (not preferred by HSC)

Option 4: Extend some or all of existing grantees for 1 year (in whole or in part) and revisit NOFA next fiscal year

HSC Funding Options

Option 5: No NOFA; Redirect 100% of the grant to County-provided safety net services such as:

- Child Welfare Workers (5 FTE annually)
- Eligibility Workers/Case Managers (8 FTE annually)
- Social Workers (5 FTE annually)
- Forensic Mental Health Recovery Center (8.3 Beds Annually)

Option 6: Redirect 50% grant; continue 50% grant; publish NOFA or extend existing best practices and or basic services in whole or in part

Option 7: Combinations of the above

Recommended Actions

- Receive report and consider funding and structure options from the Human Services Commission (HSC) and County CEO's office for FY2018-19
- Provide direction on preferred option
- Find that proposed actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)