



**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:
Department No.: 11/13/18
For Agenda Of:
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Approval of County Submission of Grant in Response to Local Super Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Funding

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes/No

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes/No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes/No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Authorize the County Executive Office (CEO) or designee to apply for a grant for State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding by submitting the grant application, certifications, standard forms, and other related documents to the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care through the County Community Services Department as the Administrative Entity for HEAP funding; and
- B. Direct the County Executive Officer or designee to return to the Board of Supervisors in January 2019 for review, approval, and execution of an agreement for the acceptance of grant funds and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the administration of HEAP funding among the multiple County departments that constitute the Multidisciplinary Intensive Case Management Team; and
- C. Determine that the above 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)(4), finding that the actions are the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to approve the County Executive Office's submittal of an application for State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) in the amount of \$1.4 million in FY 18/19, \$2.2 million in FY 19/20, and \$2.2 million in FY 20/21 for the project description below.

This application for funding is now being prepared in response to a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) issued by the County Community Services Department/Housing and Community Development (CSD/HCD) division on October 12, 2018 for multiple grant funding administered by the County including new state Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding. The County's application will be considered for funding by the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC) Rank and Review Panel at its application review meeting on November 28, 2018.

The Board is now requested to authorize the CEO or designee to submit the funding application and all certifications, standard forms, and other related documents to the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care through the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department (CSD) as the Administrative Entity for HEAP funding.

Background:

On June 27, 2018, Governor Brown signed into law SB 850 which created several funding streams to assist the efforts of local jurisdictions and Continuums of Care (CoC) in addressing homelessness, including two key programs. The Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) was established as a flexible block grant to local jurisdictions to address immediately homelessness challenges, including but not limited to prevention, criminal justice diversion programs to homeless individuals, mental health needs, and emergency aid. As the administrative entity for the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC, County's Housing and Community Development division of CSD is the direct recipient and administrator of HEAP funds.

The Board received a presentation on September 11, 2018 regarding HEAP. Prior to the release of a local Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), CSD/HCD staff conducted extensive community outreach to each of the eight local city jurisdictions, their city managers, and city councils in order for each city to declare the existence of a shelter crisis and be eligible for HEAP assistance. The Board approved the resolution of shelter crisis on September 11, and all eight cities had adopted their own respective resolutions of shelter crisis by October 8, 2018. Staff also held planning meetings with local providers to identify top priorities for HEAP funding, to better target new resources. On October 12, 2018, CSD/HCD released a "Super NOFA" which included program descriptions, guidelines, and application deadlines for multiple funding sources administered either directly by CSD/HCD, or in cooperation with other departments, such as Behavioral Wellness and the regional Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care. On October 18, 2018 an Applicant Training Workshop was held. The planning meetings and Applicant Training Workshop encouraged collaboration and expansion of local temporary and permanent housing resources.

Discussion:

In response to the Super NOFA, the County CEO's office coordinated the preparation of a multi-department application for HEAP funding. The Sheriff's Office, Public Health, Behavioral Wellness, Public Defender, Probation and Social Services participated in discussions regarding grant formulation

and opportunities to best provide services and shelter for immediate assistance to people experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Project Description

County Multi-Department Homeless Emergency Aid Program Proposal Overview

The proposal includes request for funding for:

- (1) Creation of a Multidisciplinary Intensive Case Management Team to achieve emergency, transitional and ultimately permanent housing for 50 of the most vulnerable homeless individuals in the County per year. Request for \$2,433,000 (staff and equipment) over 30 months.
- (2) Capital funding for low barrier housing in the form of a “tiny houses village” project, which will consist of 10 single room units. A location has not been determined. Request for \$280,000 in one time capital.
- (3) Funding for rents/payments for master leasing, scattered site housing, congregate living, and temporary living units. Request for \$3,125,000 over 30 months.

The project proposal recognizes the need for a Multidisciplinary Intensive Case Management Team, which has been utilized effectively in various jurisdictions, most recently in Santa Barbara County in response to the Lompoc riverbed homeless effort, combined with emergency housing strategies and the establishment of a low barrier shelter.

Santa Barbara County has homeless residents throughout every geographic region. The nature of the issues faced by homeless residents is impacted by many factors including availability of shelter, health services, food programs, outreach staff, local nonprofits, and variability in municipal or regional homeless policies and approaches. Addressing the unique needs of homeless throughout the County requires targeted strategies responsive to the individual circumstances of homeless residents in each region in order to provide immediate emergency assistance to people experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.

For the purposes of this proposal, the County will focus on individuals who lack a fixed regular and adequate nighttime residence. Further, the proposal focuses on those high utilizers of multiple systems that lack adequate supports or stability to enter into low barrier sheltering due to their condition (mental illness, addiction etc.)

The County historically has been effective in securing housing for specific high need individuals through intensive, holistic case management through efforts like the Milpas Street and Downtown Santa Barbara Homeless projects. These efforts targeted and identified set of 10-15 homeless clients with multiple needs (medical, legal, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, or special vulnerability issues) who came to the community’s attention for a variety of reasons (frequent 911 or ambulance use, aggressive behavior, property destruction, substance abuse or intoxication, panhandling, business impacts, public nuisance actions, etc.)

Through intensive supportive outreach efforts, linked to needed resources provided by multidisciplinary case management partners, these targeted clients will be provided immediate and emergency assistance, with an emphasis on low barrier sheltering and intensive case management services to ultimately achieve stable housing through on-going support.

A. Multidisciplinary Intensive Case Management Team

To maximize the impact of funding to address homelessness in Santa Barbara County, the County proposes to create a Multidisciplinary Intensive Case Management Team to achieve emergency, transitional and ultimately permanent housing for 50 of the most vulnerable homeless individuals in the County per year.

In order to identify individuals in greatest need of assistance, a targeted planning effort will occur. Low barrier housing/sheltering master leasing, scattered site, congregate living, temporary units, and other creative options for creating sheltered living will be utilized while intensive supportive wrap around services will be continually delivered to individuals to then progress through supportive and permanent housing options.

The Multidisciplinary Intensive Case Management Teams will include:

- Program Coordinator - (Behavioral Wellness)
- Homeless Outreach Supervisor - (Behavioral Wellness)
- Housing Navigator - (Behavioral Wellness)
- Holistic Defense Practitioner - (Public Defender)
- Eligibility Worker (.5)- (Social Services)
- Social Worker /EMT - (Public Health)

In addition to this outreach team, an Internal Interagency Homeless Oversight Committee is being established, led by an Assistant CEO, to coordinate the multitude of current and forthcoming homeless matters and funding at the County level and to ensure a common coordinated policy approach internally and externally. Members of this committee include an Assistant CEO, Behavioral Wellness Director, Public Health Director, Public Defender, Sheriff, Probation Chief, Social Services Director and the Director of Community Services or designees. The work of this committee is conducted through existing funding sources.

B. Housing Supports and Low Barrier Housing Opportunity

In addition to funding to support the 50 clients via sheltering, master leasing, scattered site housing, congregate living and temporary units, capital funding will be requested to establish low barrier housing in the form of a “tiny houses village” project. The tiny house strategy presents local governments with a potential cost-effective and immediate means to get homeless people into shelter. The low barrier village concept will consist of 10 single room units of approximately 200 sq. ft. each using pre-manufactured construction. Showering, restroom and kitchen facilities will also be a part of the village infrastructure. The project will utilize County owned land in an area where a homeless population is in critical need of supportive housing and a housing project is feasible. This site has not been determined. Village management and oversight will be provided in partnership with a community based nonprofit established via a future Request for Proposal. The Multidisciplinary Intensive Case Management Team will also serve individuals housed in this setting. The estimated capital cost of the tiny village approach is a one-time cost of \$280,000. The tiny houses village approach is modeled after successful projects in the cities of Ventura, Seattle, and Portland to name a few.

Performance Measure:

The County's HEAP application has identified 150 persons will be served during the grant period from January 2019 through June 2021. It includes 150 unduplicated homeless persons served, and over 13,000 instances of service (representing each time an individual unit of service is administered.)

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Approval of this Board action authorizes staff to apply for HEAP grant funds. Staff will return to the Board in January 2019 for review and approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the administration of HEAP funding by County department.

Fiscal Analysis:

The estimated budget for the proposed Multidisciplinary Intensive Case Management Team, sheltering costs and capital for the establishment of a low barrier shelter is \$1.4 million in FY 18/19, \$2.2 million in FY 19/20 and \$2.2 million in FY 20/21. A match is not required for HEAP funding. Funding is for a 30-month period.

Key Contract Risks:

There is no State contract for Board of Supervisors consideration at this time.

Authored By:

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO