

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE:	October 17, 2023
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CATEGORY: Consent Calendar 12

SUBJECT: Adopt a resolution which designates authority to submit the Emergency Solutions Grant application to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (Grant) and sign related award agreements, amendments, and documents, including retroactive, in connection with the Grant.

DEPARTMENT: Health and Human Services Agency-Economic Mobility

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #: All

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Dwayne Green, Branch Director, Economic Mobility, (530) 225-5450

STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY: Dwayne Green, HHSA Branch Director

<u>Vote Required?</u> Simple Majority Vote	<u>General Fund Impact?</u> No Additional General Fund Impact
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RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution which: (1) Approves and authorizes the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Director or any designated HHSA Branch Director to: (a) submit the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) application to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to receive funding in an amount not to exceed \$400,000, to receive funding to provide Street Outreach, Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), and Rapid Rehousing assistance to homeless individuals and families in Shasta County, and sign related award agreements and amendments, including retroactive, through December 31, 2025; (b) sign the grant agreement and any subsequent amendments, including retroactive, as long as they otherwise comply with Administrative Policy 6-101, Shasta County Contracts Manual; and (c) sign any other documents required by HCD, including retroactive.

DISCUSSION

HCD administers a federal program known as the ESG program. HCD is currently accepting applications for the ESG program. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) offers funding to engage homeless individuals and families experiencing homelessness, improve the quality of emergency shelters for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, help operate these shelters, provide essential services to shelter residents, rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families, and prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.

The intent of the application is to provide Homeless Prevention, HMIS and Rapid Rehousing assistance to homeless individuals and families in Shasta County by providing up to 24 months of rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services which may include rental application fees, security deposits, rental subsidies, moving expenses, utility deposits, and credit checks and salaries for staff. The assistance would be available to qualifying households who meet income guidelines of less than 30% median income and are literally homeless and live in Shasta County.

It is anticipated that upon the completion of the grant activity a minimum of 40 households will obtain permanent, ongoing housing. Previous ESG awards have been received by the HHSA Economic Mobility Branch (EMB) and HHSA used the funds to serve 187 individuals and families and house 98 individuals and families.

The ESG application deadline is 10/16/23. The County has to receive approval from the NorCal Continuum of Care (CoC) in order to submit the application for funds to HCD. When HHSA received the approval from the CoC, the next available Board of

Supervisor date was scheduled for 10/17/23. HCD, by exception requested by the department, will allow HHSA's application to be submitted for their consideration promptly after the 10/16/2023, deadline. It is anticipated awards will be announced in January 2024.

If this competitive application is successful, homeless rapid rehousing activities would begin as soon as a contract is executed.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could choose not to approve the submission of the grant application and/or the designated grant agreement signature authority. If the Board declines to approve the recommendation, the County would forgo up to \$400,000 funding from HCD.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The NorCal Continuum of Care approved the application by HHSA and has notified HCD of this recommendation. This will allow us to move forward with a grant application for ESG funds. This recommendation has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

If the grant application is successful, an ESG grant of up to \$400,000 could be awarded. Grant funds would be used to assist individuals experiencing homelessness to obtain permanent housing or prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless. The County match requirement for ESG funds are dollar for dollar and will be fulfilled through the HHSA CalWORKs Housing Support Program allocation. Should the grant application be approved, the department will submit a budget amendment increasing appropriations, partially offset by revenue in the Social Services budget (BU 501) for the Board's consideration during Fiscal Year 2023-24, if an ESG grant is awarded.

ATTACHMENTS:

1: Resolution