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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 13, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Erin Mettler**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of the Grant Agreement Number CHVP SGF EXP 22B-29 with the California Department of Public Health for grant funds related to the California Home Visiting Program State General Fund Expansion (CHVP SGF EXP) in the maximum amount of \$415,106 through June 30, 2023 and authorizing and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Public Health Department's Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/23. (4/5 affirmative vote required).

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The CHVP SGF EXP is funded through the California Department of Public Health Health and Human Services Agency. This agreement provides funding in the amount of \$415,106 for fiscal year 2022-2023. The California Department of Public Health has authority to grant funds for this Project under the Health and Safety Code (HSC), Section 123235. A budget amendment is included and no county general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND: Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, families have experienced financial hardship, sudden changes in routine, restrictions on social and physical interactions, death of loved ones, and increased stress, anxiety and depression in those who are already vulnerable. In addition to the impact of COVID on families, home visiting programs across the state have also suffered due to low enrollments, virtual visits, COVID-related illness, staff shortages, and employee burnout. These home visiting programs have been instrumental in child development, parenting support, relationship building, and overall improvement in the health of mothers, families and children. California Department of Public Health, Health and Human Services Agency has made available funds to provide resources to support activities directly related to COVID-19 public health emergency response to support home visiting activities that address the immediate needs of parents, children, and families. Additionally, these funds are for the benefit of those employed in home visiting services in order to attract and retain home visiting professionals who have been greatly impacted by the pandemic.

The goals of the these funds are to provide compensation for staff costs associated with staff performing grant duties in support of service delivery while teleworking; staff efforts for service expansion and family engagements, such as recruitment and retention, employee benefits such a small monthly stipend due to not being offered health insurance. Additional training that promotes staff development and staff cohesion will also be provided so that staff's ability to connect with families will be improved.

Grant funds will also go to meeting the basic needs of families as they are identified by the home visitors. Grant funded emergency supplies will be provided, such as prepaid gas cards, grocery cards, bus passes, diapers, and COVID test kits. Additionally, as technology needs were identified in families, grant funds will be used to provide laptops to families during intake and on an ongoing basis. This will aid those families who require a virtual option in order to receive home visiting services.

This Agreement represents additional funding that was made available late in the fiscal year and it took longer than anticipated to get a complete Agreement back from the State, however the funding is available and will be spent within the grant term. It is recommended that the Board approve this Agreement as it allows additional support of home visitors and the families that they serve during this COVID-19 public health emergency response.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Erin Mettler, MA, Interim Public Health Director