



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

**Health & Human Services
Agency Director
Ryan Gruver**

**Behavioral Health Director:
Phebe Bell, MSW**

**Behavioral Health Medical Director:
Aubrey Eubanks, M.D.**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
(Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Program)**

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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo**

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2024
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Phebe Bell
SUBJECT: Resolution approving acceptance of Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) funding totaling \$2,508,623 and authorizing the Behavioral Health Director to execute the Standard Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The grant award of \$2,508,622.54 is funded from the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) and the Business, Consumer and Housing Agency (BCSH) agency. There are not county general fund dollars required.

BACKGROUND:

According to the 2024 annual Point in Time (PIT) count, there are 258 unsheltered households residing in Nevada County. While Homelessness impacts regions across Nevada County, unsheltered homelessness has its highest impacts in the Sutton basin due its density of housing and businesses, and its proximity to amenities and services. The Sutton Basin area is the most visibly impacted in the county with larger encampments, higher calls for services and higher rates of overdose, all contributing to a community-wide perception of the area as unsafe. With previously awarded Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) funds, NCBH and Hospitality House targeted unsheltered people living in the Sutton Basin area for immediate inclusion into a long-term interim shelter program that immediately reduced the number unsheltered persons in the area. These participants receive wraparound services through collaboration from many partners including Turning Point, Adult Behavioral Health, FREED, Hospitality House, County Enhanced Care Management and SPIRIT.

The Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) is a competitive grant program designed to address and resolve the impacts of encampments in California and transition individuals into safe and stable housing. These funds are meant to provide the resources that allow encampments to be

disassembled and then transition people into interim shelter and eventually permanent housing. The intention of the funds is to ensure the wellness and safety of people experiencing homelessness in encampments by providing services and supports that address their immediate physical and mental wellness and result in meaningful paths to safe and stable housing, while also addressing the community impacts from encampments.

To improve and expand the success of the BHBH program, NCBH sought and was awarded state grant funding through ERF to implement a dedicated housing navigation team that can assist participants in the BHBH program in securing permanent housing. By standing up a housing Navigation team with specific staffing and expertise in coordinating housing searches, collecting needed documents, and completing applications for long term subsidies, the BHBH program will be able to engage more unsheltered individuals in the area, move them into interim shelter quickly and connect them to housing navigation services, including subsidies for rent and funds to incentivize landlords, thereby increasing access to permanent housing for people who previously camped in the Brunswick basin.

CAL-ICH and BCSH have messaged that the Standard Agreement will be forthcoming in the next few months, however Staff is recommending the Board proceed with accepting the funds and authorizing the Behavioral Health Director to execute the standard agreement in order to ensure that the funded services can be operationalized quickly. The Department will be conducting a procurement process for the services through a public Request for Proposals process.

It is recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of the funds and authorize the Behavioral Health Director to execute the Standard Agreement in order to expedite access to these critically needed services.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Phebe Bell, MSW, Director of Behavioral Health