



NEVADA COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rachel Roos

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with FREED Independent Living Center, d/b/a FREED for funding to administer the SOARWorks program to eligible clients in the total maximum amount of \$293,011 for the term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Under this Agreement, up to \$293,011 is being committed to FREED for FY 21-22. Funds will be used to serve six eligible participants. The program will be funded by the State Department of Social Services Housing and Disability Advocacy program funds.

BACKGROUND:

According to the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, people with disabilities constitute 40% of the homeless population. Approximately half of the people experiencing homelessness suffers from a mental health issue, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Mental and physical health problems are exacerbated by the ongoing stress and associated trauma from living on the streets and / or in homeless shelters.

FREED has been providing services to persons with disabilities in Nevada County since 1985. FREED's mission is to promote independence and self-determination for people with disabilities through person-driven services, collaborative community partnerships and education, and leadership that advocates for fully inclusive communities.

Since 2018, FREED has provided contracted services to Nevada County residents under through the SOARWorks program. In that time FREED has established itself as one of the state's best HDAP program.

- Served 67 total individuals
- 43 of those individuals were connected to permanent housing with financial assistance
- 28 have been awarded benefits
- 21 individuals have exited the program

- 17 of those who exited, did so into permanent housing

SOARWorks Housing and Disability Advocacy Program:

The SOARWorks Program will provide specialized case management, direct housing support (including rental subsidies and supportive services) and disability advocacy to individuals with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness and who may be eligible for social security or disability benefits. Consistent with the core components of Housing First, Contractor will work in collaboration with the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to ensure populations with the highest needs are given the highest priority and are able to access SOARWorks services.

Item Initiated and Approved by:

Rachel Roos, LCSW, Director of Social Services