

COUNTY OF NEVADA
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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: April 14th, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Heidi Hall, Chair of the Board
Dan Miller, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing \$100,000 to establish a Nevada County Relief Fund to provide emergency relief to support our **local non-profits** and **small businesses** due to COVID-19, authorizing the execution of related documents, and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the fiscal year 2019/20 Housing and Community Services Budget(4/5 Affirmative Vote Required).

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution

FUNDING: Funding for the Nevada County Relief Fund Project (Project) will include \$100,000 total. \$50,000 of county General Fund Community Initiative Funding (CIF), including dollars that would have otherwise been used to fund projects in the next fiscal year. These funds will go to Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation as the fiscal sponsor for the Project. In addition, there will be \$50,000 of Health and Human Services Agency Realignment funds that will be held by the County and used for eligible uses that are more restrictive than the CIF funds. A budget amendment is included in the resolution.

BACKGROUND: On March 10, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution proclaiming a local emergency in Nevada County due to rapid spread of COVID-19 in the world and neighboring communities, and the potential introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Nevada (Resolution 20-062). On March 19, 2020, the Governor of California issued a statewide order requiring all Californians to remain at their home or place of residence, except as necessary to carry out essential activities. The Governor's order requiring residents to remain at their home or place of residence indefinitely, as well as the rapid spread and continuing threat of COVID-19, has resulted in substantial financial impacts on our businesses in our community and threatens their ongoing viability and the health and welfare of residents of Nevada County. To meet these challenges and assist the most vulnerable residents and businesses, there is a need to provide a flexible safety-net of funds to community-based organizations and small businesses. The funds will be used to support:

- Our front-line nonprofit organizations providing direct "safety net" services to the elderly, people with disabilities, families, at-risk youth, and unhoused individuals, with access to food, shelter, childcare; and
- Our small businesses hit hardest by the shut-down order.

In the past two weeks, the County has collaborated with partners to develop the Nevada County Relief Fund Project. The Project will be modeled after similar initiatives in other California counties, and will include Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation as the fiscal sponsor, as well as a Relief Fund Executive and Fundraising Committee, Relief Fund Working Group, and a number of partners who will be recruited to collaborate and support the Project, such as elected officials, media partners, and others. The County Executive Office of the County of Nevada will staff the Executive and Fundraising Committee and Working Group.

County funds will include \$50,000 of General Fund Community Initiative Funding (CIF), funds that have historically been used for purposes within the scope of this Project, which would have otherwise been used to fund projects in the next fiscal year. These funds will be distributed based on recommendations of the Relief Fund Executive and Fundraising Committee. The County funds will be matched by funds solicited from Nevada County Cities/Town, larger businesses and major donors, and individuals in hopes of raising up to one million dollars in total for the project.

The County will also make available for the Project \$50,000 of Health and Human Services Agency Realignment funds to meet the objectives of the Project. The Realignment funds will be held by the County to ensure that the more restrictive administrative and program requirements are met.

The structure of the Program will continue to be developed and solidified through the month of April, and the process of fund award and distribution will begin in late April or early May.

The lead in the County will be the Housing and Community Services division of the Health and Human Services Agency. The CIF funds will be transferred to that division through a budget amendment that is included in the resolution. The resolution provides authority to the County Executive Officer or her designee to execute documents related to the Project.

Item Initiated by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer
Martin Polt, Deputy County Executive Officer/CFO

Approved by: Chair Hall and Vice Chair Miller