



COUNTY OF NEVADA COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: September 22, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Executive Officer negotiate a Lease Agreement with the Nevada County Fairgrounds in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 for building rental space for facilitation of a temporary youth hub focused on distance learning and COVID-19 safe social activities and community access to grounds for limited recreational use, and authorizing the County Executive Officer to execute documents related to the Lease Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the resolution.

FUNDING: This agreement will be managed through the County Executive Office budget for FY 20/21. It will be funded from the County's state allocation of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) up to \$200,000 and the County's General Fund up to \$250,000, based on final terms of the lease agreement with the Nevada County Fairgrounds. A budget amendment is included in the Coronavirus Relief Fund update, item SR-20-3434 on the 9/22/2020 Board of Supervisors agenda.

BACKGROUND:

On March 10, 2020 the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 20-062 proclaiming a local emergency in Nevada County due to rapid spread of COVID-19 and its threat to Nevada County. On March 19, 2020, the Governor of California issued a statewide order requiring all Californians to remain in at their home or place of residence, except as necessary to carry out essential activities. On May 4, 2020 a California State Executive order informed local health jurisdictions and industry sectors that they may gradually reopen under new modifications and guidance provided by the state per the May 7, 2020 Public Health Order. On August 28, 2020 the state released a "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" in which the state revised criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities.

Under the State guidance and the active Public Health Order(s) since March 10, 2020, a prohibition on gatherings, particularly large gatherings, has remained in effect. As a result, the

Nevada County Fairgrounds, has been hard hit, as they were unable to hold their largest single event, the County Fair, in 2020 and generally having seen their revenues drastically reduced due to the prohibitions against holding any large-scale events.

Nevada County Fairgrounds' building facilities remain unused and Nevada County believes these facilities could be leveraged to offer important community services, such as opening up the main grounds for community recreational use, such as walking and bike riding.

In addition, there is a need within the community for a temporary youth hub, which could provide options for distance learning as well as social activities, such as after school clubs, in a COVID-19 safe way including being outdoors when possible, physical distancing, use of cohorts or "pods", cleanliness, and use of masks.

As the majority of schools within Nevada County are either continuing with a distance learning model or a hybrid model (partially distance learning and partially in-school) for the 20/21 school year, adequate access to the internet remains a key need within the community, as not all families have such access. In addition, there are youth groups in the county which are impacted by COVID-19 and are in need of safe and accessible space to provide programs. A temporary COVID-19 safe youth hub could facilitate that access.

To facilitate the creation of this temporary youth hub, Nevada County proposes to lease building facilities at the Fairgrounds, most likely from October 1, 2020 through June 15, 2021.

At the outset, programing and activities will be facilitated and overseen by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and the Friendship Club/Neo. Based on need, capacity, and interest, access to the youth hub could be extended to other youth focused organizations in the future. Nevada County Public Health staff will work with these organizations to ensure compliance with COVID-19 requirements.

As part of this agreement, the Fairgrounds will also open the grounds for public recreational uses, such as walking or biking during the week (M-F). This will offer residents and families another way to be outside and enjoy physical activity in this stressful time of COVID-19.

As noted above, this lease agreement will in part be funded by the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) received from the State. The facilitation of distance learning is an eligible use within the US Treasury guidelines for the use of the funds. The remaining funding will be General Fund funded.

Lease Terms and Timeline:

The Nevada County CEO, or her designee, will negotiate the lease agreement with the Nevada County Fairgrounds. The contract amount is currently estimated at \$400,000 but will not exceed \$450,000.

In addition, Nevada County CEO, or her designee, will facilitate the use of facilities by County focused youth providers and organizations, including the Nevada County schools, the Friendship Club/NEO, among others and will work with the Fairgrounds to create a mechanism and approval process for such entities to occupy and use the facilities to be rented by Nevada County.

This lease agreement will facilitate the creation of a temporary youth hub at the Nevada County Fairgrounds focused on distance learning center and COVID-19 safe youth programs and will provide compensation to the Fairgrounds for these services.

Therefore, staff recommends the Board adopt the attached resolution and authorize the Nevada County CEO to negotiate and approve a facility agreement with the Nevada County Fairgrounds as well as negotiate and approve applications or agreements with youth focused service providers for use of the rented facilities. A budget amendment is included in the Coronavirus Relief Fund update, item SR-20-3434 on the 9/22/2020 Board of Supervisors agenda.

Item Initiated by: Georgette Aronow, Sr. Management Analyst

Approved by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer